

3 Saudis, 2 Pakistanis executed in S. Arabia

RIYADH (AFP) — Three Saudis and two Pakistanis, sentenced to death for murder and drug-trafficking, were decapitated by sword on Friday in Saudi Arabia, the interior ministry said here. Abderrahim Ben Amer Ibn Omar Al Hazimi, a Saudi, burned his father alive after locking him in a petrol-soaked car. He said his crime was due to "family problems," the ministry said, adding that he was executed in Mecca. Two other Saudis, whose identities were not revealed, were accused of killing a fellow citizen and his grandson to avenge the murder of the father of one of the defendants. They were executed in the capital Riyadh. Meanwhile, two Pakistanis charged with a drug-trafficking were executed in Jeddah in western Saudi Arabia, after being arrested trying to smuggle heroin into the country, the ministry said. The Gulf kingdom introduced the death penalty for drug-traffickers and persistent drug abusers in 1987. A total of 31 people have been executed in Saudi Arabia this year, according to official figures. Executions generally take place in public after weekly Friday prayers.

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Syria rejects Israeli plan: Rabin's proposal for phased withdrawal splits Israeli Labour

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's offer to Syria of a "marginal" withdrawal from the Golan Heights over three years divided his ruling Labour Party on Friday.

Eight Labour Party "hawks" led by MP Avigdor Kahalani launched a counter-attack against any concessions on the strategic plateau captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

"This is a question of life or death for the security of the country and it can only be decided by a large majority (of the people)," Mr. Kahalani said.

The eight MPs were drawing up a parliamentary bill requiring a 70 per cent majority in the house and a 65 per cent majority in a national referendum before Israel hands back the Golan.

Mr. Rabin has pledged to hold a referendum if agreement is reached with Syria to return a sizeable area of the plateau in exchange for peace.

The Israeli offer was rejected Thursday by Syria's Foreign Minister Farouk Al

Sharaa, the Dutch news agency ANP reported.

Reacting to Mr. Rabin's suggestion, Mr. Sharaa said: "It took two years for Israel to pull out of the Sinai desert (in Egypt), which is a lot more spread out."

"When it comes to Syria, Israel should leave the Golan within a month," Mr. Sharaa said after a meeting with Dutch Premier Wim Kok.

"Syria is ready for comprehensive peace in return for a total withdrawal," Mr. Sharaa said.

Mr. Sharaa reiterated that Syria's second pre-condition for a settlement was an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, where it maintains a buffer zone to protect settlements in northern Israel from attack by Islamic fundamentalist guerrillas from Lebanon.

The Israeli prime minister has a slim majority in parliament of 61 of the 120 seats. Eli Dayan, chairman of the parliamentary Labour Party, rejected the bill.

"This proposal is unacceptable in a democratic country where the government has

been elected and has a mandate to negotiate."

Mr. Dayan said he would impose a whip if it came to a vote in parliament to defeat the bill.

The right-wing opposition backed by the Labour "hawks" called an extraordinary Knesset session for Tuesday to debate the Golan pullout.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal also opposed Mr. Kahalani.

"The people will decide by referendum, but not before we have a detailed peace proposal," Mr. Shahal said.

Mr. Rabin told his cabinet on Thursday he had accepted the principle of what he called a "marginal" withdrawal on the Golan over three years.

He made the statement after settlers charged that he had already agreed to a total withdrawal and to evacuate the Jewish town and villages there.

Mr. Rabin said none of the 31 Jewish settlements on the plateau would be removed

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Donor meeting abandoned after Israel-PLO dispute

PARIS (Agencies) — An international donors' meeting on aid to the Palestinians was abandoned on Friday after differences over aid projects in Arab East Jerusalem could not be resolved, delegates said.

"The meeting has been postponed, no new date has been set," a European delegate said after waiting hours while World Bank, Israeli and Palestinian officials argued behind closed doors.

The Israelis objected to the inclusion of Palestinian construction projects in Jerusalem in a development plan to be backed by international donors.

Palestinian officials also said there were disagreements with the donors over the funding of the Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, and the running costs of the new Palestinian authority.

The meeting had been due to review a Palestinian budget adopted last Saturday and pledge more aid to help Palestinian self-rule.

The setback came exactly a year after Israeli and PLO

negotiators, meeting secretly in Paris, completed a watershed agreement on mutual recognition between the Jewish state and the PLO.

Israel delegation head Uri Savir, director-general of the Israeli foreign ministry, was to hold a news conference at the World Bank offices in Paris Friday afternoon, an Israeli spokesman said.

Earlier, the World Bank had said that a preparatory technical meeting of delegates of the consultative group which should have taken place Thursday did not and bilateral talks were held instead. The consultative group consists of more than 30 delegations of donors to the West Bank and Gaza.

The postponed meeting had been organised at the request of the Palestinian Authority, which was to be represented at the meeting by Nabil Shaath, minister of planning and international economic cooperation, and Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the PLO's foreign affairs department and responsible for the Palestinian Economic Construction and Development Agency.

After several hours of negotiations between Mr. Shaath, Mr. Savir and World Bank Vice-President Caio Koch-Weser, a compromise was proposed under which Jerusalem would effectively be excluded, diplomats said.

But Mr. Shaath said on arrival at the bank office on Friday morning: "I don't see any agreement coming... I see so far no progress whatsoever."

An Israeli official said Norway, which brokered last year's landmark peace accord, would hand a letter to all delegations stating that the activities of the consultative group for the West Bank and Gaza would be conducted according to the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles and the May Cairo agreement on the terms for Palestinian self-rule.

This excluded Jerusalem from a five-year interim period of self-rule, leaving the issue for negotiations on the final status of the territories. "Anything involving Jerusalem will not be handled in the forum," the Israeli official said.



CROWDED GRAVEYARDS: A Thai woman of Chinese origin sets skulls in the sun to dry on Friday in a Bangkok cemetery in an annual ritual prior to the Chinese lunar

festival. Because the cemetery has limited space, the remains of people buried in temporary graves are dug up, dried and hurred in a mass cremation each year to make room for those to come (AFP Photo)

Abortion, sexual rights dog talks at Cairo conference

CAIRO (R) — Abortion and sexual rights left a U.N. Population Conference spinning its wheels to disagreement for the fifth straight day of Friday.

As a translation hitch held up a showdown between liberals and some Catholic countries over a text on abortion, controversy raged over the correct interpretation of sexual and reproductive rights.

Haggling between liberals and Vatican-led religious conservatives over whether abortion could ever be considered safe or legal has cast a shadow over the conference, called to limit growth in the world's population over the next 20 years.

While discussion on the main paragraph of the text referring to abortion went on hold, controversy over the practice also dogged discussion on another part of the 113-page document.

That controversy revolves around whether the term "sexual and reproductive rights" could include a right to abortion.

"There is a possibility that (such language) could be used to suggest the existence of a possible right to abortion of misundoubtedly in that sense," Monsignor Diarmuid Martin, a senior Vatican de-

legate, told the conference.

Father Martin suggested a small drafting committee reviewing the language "remove the ambiguity as much as possible" or "affirm that there is nothing in this programme of action that can be construed as establishing a right to abortion."

The Vatican feels that if the document even indirectly established an international right to abortion, countries where it is still banned might feel under pressure to permit it.

Another unresolved point is whether the final document should say "couples and individuals" have a right to reproductive health or whether it should just mention couples.

A number of Islamic countries, including Egypt, Libya and several African Muslim nations, said they wanted only "couples".

"This (including individuals) would cause problems in our societies, which are Islamic societies," the Libyan delegate told the conference.

"Muslim critics of the conference think the word 'individuals' implicitly condones homosexuality and other forms of sex they consider immoral."

The Vatican has said it has

no problem with the wording on individual rights but wants it made clear that another part of the document which refers to "other unions" should not be seen as a reference to homosexuals.

"Ideally, parents should be a man and a woman brought together by love in marriage and committed to support one another and their children," Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said.

Zimbabwe and India said the document must guarantee sexual and reproductive rights to individuals and not only couples in order to protect women from having little or no say in traditional marriages.

"The right of individuals is just as much about saying no as it is about saying yes," the Zimbabwean delegate said.

In a barb directed at the Vatican delegate, the Zimbabwean added: "If (reproduction) rights were excluded it would remove the right of people to remain celibate and I don't think the Holy See would be very happy about that."

Monsignor Martin later responded.

"As a celibate... I feel a little bit discriminated against

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Abortion compromise reached

CAIRO (AFP) — A compromise has been widely accepted in the abortion controversy which has held up the U.N. population conference, delegates said.

A new compromise to be inserted in the draft action plan — aimed at curbing world birth rates — was widely accepted although the Vatican and other states like Malta and Ecuador still have reservations, delegates said.

"I think 8.25 is over at this point," according to Timothy Wirth, U.S. undersecretary of state for global affairs at the U.S. State Department, referring to the controversial abortion paragraph.

He added he thought the conference would end with a "respectful agreement."

The Vatican said it welcomed much of the proposal on the disputed paragraph on abortion and that this "position constitutes a substantial but not complete identification with the text of the paragraph."

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U.S., Cuba agree on refugees

NEW ORLEANS (Agencies) — The United States and Cuba Friday reached agreement aimed at resolving the flight of Cuban boat people, the White House said.

Earlier reports quoted State Department spokesman Mike McCurry as saying the United States was satisfied that many of its aims had been met.

His remarks came after a three hour meeting between U.S. and Cuban negotiators over the question of Cuban refugees fleeing their country for the United States.

"The United States is satisfied that many of our goals have been met at this discussion today," said Mr. McCurry.

He added that there would be a news conference at 3 p.m. (2000 GMT) but did not confirm a final agreement had been reached.

Cuban negotiator Ricardo Alarcon said before leaving Havana Thursday he was confident the two sides would reach an agreement soon but cited ongoing differences when he arrived at the U.S. mission Friday.

Velayati: Muslims have had enough of Bosnian deadlock

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Friday that Muslims had had "enough" of the deadlocked Bosnian peace process but did not say whether Iran intended to supply arms to the Bosnians.

Muslims had to tell the world that "enough is enough. We cannot tolerate more of the deadlock in the peace process in Bosnia," he told journalists at the Organisation of the Islamic Conference foreign ministers' meeting here.

He described as "very important" the OIC resolution urging its 51 members to supply "individually or collectively" the means for Bosnian Muslims to defend themselves if the international arms embargo on the country were not lifted.

He was then asked whether Iran would send arms to Bosnia. Mr. Velayati said Iran would respect UN Security Council resolutions and would not violate international law.

On the dispute between India and Pakistan over

Kashmir the minister remained cautious, saying Iran would not interfere in any country's internal affairs.

"If both parties are not ready to talk together nobody from outside can solve the problem," he added.

On Afghanistan, where rival Mujahideen factions had been fighting since the communist regime was overthrown in 1992, Velayati suggested that "proximity talks" might be organised in view of the UN's admitted failure to get a peace process established.

"More diluted talks" between faction leaders could be coordinated through the OIC's secretary-general Hamid Halgabi, and could take place either in Iran or Pakistan. The talks would not undermine continuing UN efforts, he said.

Mr. Velayati told reporters that in Tajikistan, Iran is asking the Muslim opposition there to participate in elections, negotiate with the pro-Moscow government in Dushanbe and eventually agree to a ceasefire.

"The opposition should be

allowed to participate in the elections," said Mr. Velayati, who is in Pakistan for a meeting of the foreign ministers of the 50-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference.

Clinton briefs Rabin on Haiti

TEL AVIV (R) — U.S. President Bill Clinton briefed Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by telephone on Thursday night on U.S. plans to invade Haiti, Israeli newspapers reported Friday. The reports in the Haaretz and Yedioth Achronoth dailies on Friday could not be immediately confirmed with Mr. Rabin's spokesman. "According to preliminary information that reached Jerusalem last night, the U.S. intention was to take action in Haiti today (Friday)," Yedioth said. Haaretz quoted unidentified Israeli sources as saying Mr. Clinton called Mr. Rabin as part of a series of telephone conversations with U.S. allies before a Haiti operation. Yedioth said Mr. Rabin expressed support for the U.S. plans along with his hope there would be no American casualties. The White House said on Thursday its patience was "wearing thin" on Haiti and that only by stepping down would Haitian military leaders head off a U.S.-led invasion.

CPJ urges Arafat to release journalist

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The arrest of a Palestinian journalist in Gaza Tuesday has aroused greater fears of the restrictions that seems to be impeding the freedom of the press in Gaza and the West Bank.

The Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) has written to Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine National Authority (PNA), expressing its alarm requesting reasons for the arrest of Mohammad Al Ejlal, a part-time correspondent for the Arabic daily newspaper An Nahar.

The CPJ has urged Mr. Arafat to secure Mr. Al Ejlal's immediate release "unless he is charged with an offence deemed criminal by international standards."

Mr. Al Ejlal, a resident of Gaza City and a student at the Faculty of Journalism of the Islamic University in Gaza, is currently being held at Gaza central prison, the CPJ quoted Gaza journalists as saying.

The arrest came as part of a crackdown on Islamic Jihad sympathisers who are opposed to the agreement between the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel, CPJ said.

An Nahar newspaper, which was founded in 1986 by Issam Anani and is based in East Jerusalem, reappeared last week after 36-day ban enforced by the PNA, but without Mr. Anani.

Mr. Anani and news reports from Jerusalem said An Nahar's reappearance was conditional on the newspaper's adoption of the PLO's official political stance and the attainment of a PNA publishing licence.

The CPJ, in a letter addressed to Mr. Arafat, said it has alarmed by the suspension of An Nahar and the subsequent closure of the weekly Akhbar Al Balad, also based in East Jerusalem, which has yet to reopen.

The CPJ said in its letter, a copy of which was faxed to the Jordan Times, that prior to the arrest of Mr. Al Ejlal it had felt some relief at the resurrection of An Nahar and the granting of PNA licences to two new newspapers to be established in Gaza. The New York-based CPJ said it feared that this latest event and PNA insistence that newspapers toe the official line were corroding freedom of the press.

Police free 44 of Gaza detainees

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AFP) — Palestinian police freed Friday 44 opponents of PLO self-rule who were arrested in a crackdown after the murder of an Israeli soldier, the authorities said.

Police released 34 supporters of the Islamic Jihad and 10 men from the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

All the men signed a written pledge to obey the law before being released.

That left a dozen suspects in jail following Sunday's murder of an Israeli soldier by Islamic Jihad.

The Jihad, which has vowed to pursue the armed struggle against Israel, said more than 50 of its men had been detained during the week.

France proposes probation period for Baghdad

PARIS (R) — France wants the United Nations to place Baghdad on probation and decide after six months whether to lift the embargo on oil exports imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, an official said on Friday.

Foreign Minister Alain Juppe proposed the plan to U.N. Iraq expert Ralph Ekeus during a meeting in the French capital on Thursday evening, ministry spokesman Richard Duque told reporters.

"We want a date to be fixed for the start of a probationary period which should not exceed six months, at the end of which the Security Council should decide what should be done based on any progress that has been recorded," Mr. Duque quoted

Mr. Juppe as telling Mr. Ekeus.

Mr. Ekeus heads the special U.N. commission charged with establishing a long-term system of controls on Iraqi arms.

Iraq has been lobbying hard to gain support from the international community for the removal of crippling U.N. sanctions which prevent Baghdad from resuming vital all exports and normal trade.

Mr. Duque, speaking to reporters during a regular ministry briefing, said the proposal would not affect Iraq's obligations to adhere to all applicable U.N. resolutions, including the one requiring it to recognise the sovereignty of Kuwait.

Ministry officials said the proposal stems from U.N. resolutions themselves.

Private can company finalises largest syndicated loan facility

Middle East Can Company, a joint venture between the Shaheen Business and Investment Group, Amman, Crown Cork & Seal Co. Inc. Philadelphia, USA, Ahmad Hamad Algosaihi & Bros. Co., Dammam, Saudi Arabia, and other Jordanian shareholders, finalised a credit facility for its beverage can making plant at Sahab Industrial Estate. The loan syndicated among four Jordanian banks, led by Arab Bank & Citibank, was signed in Amman on the 8th of September at a ceremony held at the Arab

Bank headquarters. The facility for a total of JD 15 million is believed to be one of the largest syndicated loans ever granted to the Jordanian sector. The plant site for MECMC is 45,000 square metres and construction started on the 12,000 square metre plant in April of this year. The plant will produce 600 million beverage cans per year and will service the needs of the Jordanian soft drinks companies as well as those in neighbouring countries. Commercial production will commence in April 1995.

PLO prepares for elections

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Palestinian authority, frustrated by what it views as Israeli efforts to delay elections, has begun unilateral preparations for a poll in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a senior official has said.

Saeed Erekat, an authority member in charge of local government, said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had ordered the opening of election offices in the Palestinian areas, including Arab East Jerusalem.

"We have orders to open the offices immediately. We have started looking for offices to register voters, issue voting cards and supervise ballot boxes throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip," Dr. Erekat said.

The step appeared to be an attempt to pressure Israeli leaders to speed up talks over elections and was likely to anger Israel, which still retains full control over the West Bank except for the town of Jericho.

A spokesman for Major-General Dan "Othman" Schindler, Israel's chief negotiator on the issue, said negotiations with the PLO on

election must be concluded before offices can open.

"We will not allow the opening of the offices and we will not pass them population registry lists because everything must be in its own time... first both sides have to sit and we have to do things gradually," she said.

In their broad peace agreement signed in Washington last September, Israel and the PLO agreed to organise elections for Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, including Arab East Jerusalem, to choose a council that would run the Palestinian territories.

Under the accord, the two sides must negotiate a deal on the system of elections, rules and regulations regarding the election campaign and the mode of the agreed supervision and international observation of the balloting.

Dr. Erekat said the Palestinian authority wanted elections to be held "as soon as possible."

The peace accord originally set July as the date for general elections. But delays in implementing the first phase of the deal — launching self-rule in Gaza and

Jericho — postponed the poll.

Dr. Erekat said Israel was refusing to hand over population registries for Palestinians in the West Bank still under Israeli occupation and had prevented Palestinians from conducting a census.

Dr. Erekat said he submitted five papers in August to Israeli negotiators on elections but had not received a reply.

"In my opinion they are not only stalling, but also obstructing our efforts to hold elections," Dr. Erekat said.

He said Israel may be trying to delay elections because it does not want to honour the agreement to allow East Jerusalem Palestinians to participate or out of unwillingness to redeploy troops outside population centres in the West Bank.

The Palestinian authority has signed agreement with the European Union to help finance and train Palestinian staff to conduct the elections.

On Wednesday, Dr. Erekat met Mr. Arafat in Gaza and discussed with him the draft law and regulations for elections.



OLD HANDS: American actor Kirk Douglas visits Jerusalem to inspect playgrounds for and his wife Anna in the Old City of Jerusalem Jewish and Palestinian children that have been Friday. Douglas, who is Jewish American, built from his donations (AFP photo)

Cairo conference

(Continued from page 1)

because I have the right to decide on the number of my children — zero — and the timing — never."

Attention at the conference has been focused on the one paragraph whose discussion was delayed by French translation difficulties.

A small working group, trying to appease Vatican objections without threatening the fragile consensus among the great majority of delegates, submitted the new abortion text on Thursday and the organisers asked delegates to sleep on it.

The working group tried to answer the Vatican by inserting a footnote defining unsafe abortion as "a procedure for terminating an unwanted pregnancy either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment lacking the minimal medical standards or both."

The Vatican argues that abortion can never be safe, especially for the unborn foetus.

The new text changes "circumstances in which abortion is legal" to "circumstances in which abortion is not against the law" — apparently to avoid giving the impression that abortion should be legal.

The paragraph as a whole says that abortion should not be a method of family planning, that unsafe abortion is a major public health concern and that women who have complications from abortion should receive quality health care.

Compromise reached

(Continued from page 1)

It said in a statement it "withholds its assent" until other areas of the action plan where abortion is also mentioned are dealt with.

The Vatican has led a campaign against the 116-page action plan, charging that parts of it condone abortion, extra-marital sex and homosexuality.

Islamic states, which had supported the Vatican in the abortion debate when the conference began Monday, agreed to an earlier compromise which was rejected by the Vatican and its allies in Central America and Malta.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro told AFP "This text is more positive. It has become clearer. The legal formulation is clearer. There is less ambiguity than before, but that doesn't mean we are going to approve."

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. helicopter crashes into Gulf

DUBAI (AFP) — A U.S. navy helicopter crashed into the Gulf on Friday hot its five crew members were rescued, the U.S. navy Central Command for the Gulf said in a statement received here. The SH-3H Sea King helicopter plunged into the sea after taking off from the George Washington aircraft carrier which was operating in the region, the statement said. The five crew members were plucked out of the sea by another U.S. helicopter and taken back to the George Washington. An enquiry has been launched into the cause of the accident, the statement added.

Iran holds war games in Gulf

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iran's Revolutionary Guards and the regular army will begin manoeuvres in the northern Gulf on Sunday, the official news agency IRNA said Friday. The five-day exercise, code-named "Kheibar-73", will be held near the oil-rich Khark Island and aims to "provide training and create coordination" between the two forces. It involves naval and air exercises by both forces, including the use of speed boats, F-14 bombers, ships and attack helicopters, IRNA said. Khark, in the northern Gulf, is Iran's main oil terminal which was extensively damaged during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war. Iranian forces have held nearly 40 manoeuvres in the Gulf and the Oman Sea this year, according to military officials.

Thai princess tours Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Thai princess Chulabhorn Mahidol began an official five-day visit to Israel on Friday accompanied by a 20-strong entourage. She will have dinner with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres on Sunday and lunch with President Ezer Weizman the following day. The princess, a professor of organic chemistry, heads a research institute and will sign an academic cooperation accord with the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and through-out Israel. She was due to meet Thai trainees on agricultural cooperation courses at a collective village called Kfar Haim in the north on Friday.

Peres, Arafat to attend concert in Oslo

OSLO (AFP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat will attend a peace concert in Oslo Tuesday, the Norwegian Foreign Ministry confirmed Friday. The two leaders will attend the "Shalom-Salam" concert, hosted by the city of Oslo and the UNESCO, on the first anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Principles on Sept. 13. Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat are expected to hold bilateral talks, in addition to talks with Norwegian Foreign Minister Bjørn Tore Godal, according to Foreign Ministry spokesman Ingvar Havnem. The concert, which will include performances by Finnish singer Arja Saijonmaa, conductor Zubin Mehta, French singer Juliette Greco, the French group Gypsy Kings and American entertainer Harry Belafonte, will be in memory of the late Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Joergensen Holst, one of the main architects behind the Oslo accords.

Algerians find policeman's pistol

ALGIERS (AFP) — The Algerian security services said Friday that police have found nine armed Islamic fundamentalists in clashes in Algiers and recovered a weapon stolen when five Frenchmen were killed in the city in August. The security sources said the fundamentalists, who were killed Wednesday, belonged to the GIA (Armed Islamic Group), the most hardline of Algeria's fundamentalist groups. The sources gave no details on the circumstances in which the men were killed in Saouyah, near Saida in the southern suburbs of Algiers. An automatic pistol stolen from one of the three French military policemen and two consular officials used in Ang. 3 in an attack at the Ain Allah housing complex in Algiers was among the weapons found by police, the security forces said.

Memorable quotes

CAIRO (R) — Here are some of the more memorable remarks by people attending the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development:

"One minute we enjoy sucking from the breast of a woman, the next minute we push them into the kitchen" — Zambian Vice President Brigadier-General G. Miyanda.

"We feel very sad for some people who don't have a chance to be happy in life" — Sat Nam Khalsa, a spiritual healer.

"Nothing could be more interesting than being with my husband full-time" — American actress Jane Fonda.

"I'm popped out" — stickers from Catholics for a Free Choice.

"Between the devil and the Holy Sea" — title of a seminar on reproductive rights in Ireland.

"Our people, our children are innocent. They have the innocence of children, they don't know what sex is so they don't indulge in something they don't know about" — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto.

"Men have sex with men and women with women... definitely there will be re-

duction in births after these traditions are enforced" — Muslim cleric Sheikh Mohammad Ali Ghazali.

"Nothing to do with what goes on red-light districts. We don't accept that" — Egyptian Population Minister Maher Mahran, asked what Egypt meant by "normal sex."

"Men and women are like two wings on one bird. With two wings one can fly" — Bahai activist Elizabeth Bowen.

"I wouldn't blame the men of this country and the world if they became homosexual because what we are hearing is not femininity" — pro-life activist Marie Kirrane.

"It's like swimming through treacle... even to reach agreement on simple points can take hours and hours" — Nicolas Bieman, vice chairman of the main drafting committee.

"They are doing good business. It's like privatising the pyramids" — a Mexican news agency correspondent on high prices at the Cairo conference centre.

"This document is not for the Swiss guards but for all humanity" — Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

Hizbollah denies link to Argentina bombing

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The Iranian-backed Hizbollah on Friday denied U.S. charges that the group may have been responsible for bombings that killed 116 people in Argentina, Panama and Britain in July.

Hizbollah's denial, which was published in Beirut newspapers, was in response to remarks by Philip Wilcox Jr., the U.S. State Department's coordinator for counter-terrorism.

"There is a growing body of evidence that these criminal acts were carried out by Hizbollah terrorists," Mr. Wilcox told a news conference in Buenos Aires on

Wednesday. He was referring to the July 18 bombing of a Jewish community centre in the Argentine capital that killed 95 people, an explosion of a Panamanian jetliner the next day that killed 21 people, mostly Jewish businessmen, and anti-Israeli bombings in London a week later in which 18 people were injured. "Despite our frequent denials, the United States is systematically trying to frame Hizbollah with these bombings in order to stop our resistance against Israel's occupation of South Lebanon," Hizbollah's statement said.

Palestinian demonstrators demand prisoners released

JERICHO, West Bank (AFP) — Several hundred Palestinians demonstrated in the self-rule enclave of Jericho on Friday demanding that Israel release all Palestinian prisoners, witnesses said.

Ex-prisoners confined to this West Bank town and relatives of the estimated 7,000 still in Israeli jails joined the peaceful protest.

Over the last four months, more than 500 Palestinians among about 5,000, set free by Israel, have been released on condition they spend the rest of their prison terms in Jericho.

Israel agreed to allow 40 to leave Jericho this week and has promised to consider more cases.

The release orders were issued Monday two days after some 200 freed prisoners confined here hoisted tyres, blocked a highway and clashed with Palestinian police.

Israel radio reported Friday that another 150, who are close to the end of their sentences, would be allowed to quit Jericho soon.

Under the autonomy agreement signed in Cairo on May 4, Israel can hand over prisoners to the Palestinian authority to serve out their sentences to the self-rule areas.

Meanwhile, a firebomb was thrown against an Israeli patrol in Jericho on Thursday night for the first time since autonomy began in May.

6 suspected settlers arrested

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Six extremist Jewish settlers, including a rabbi and an army officer, have been arrested on suspicion of murdering at least five Palestinians, police said Friday.

The arrests began a week ago with Lieutenant Oren Edry, 23, who allegedly supplied arms to the clandestine network, followed by five other men from the hardline settlement of Kiryat Arba or the nearby town of Hebron.

Rabbi Ido Elba, 30 and Eliahu Keller, 23, appeared in court at Haifa on Friday and were remanded in custody for 10 days.

Mr. Edry's lawyer Tzion

Amir said the Shin Beth security service suspected the group of the cold-blooded murders of three Palestinians in a village outside Hebron last December, of a Palestinian near Kiryat Arba six months ago and of an Arab taxi driver in July.

Mr. Amir, who met his client on Thursday for the first time, accused the Shin Beth of "mistreating" Mr. Edry.

Kiryat Arba was home to Baruch Goldstein, the settler who massacred more than 29 Muslims in the Hebron mosque on Feb. 25.

Goldstein militated for

years in the anti-Arab Kach movement which was outlawed on Mar. 13 after its leaders praised the mosque slaughter.

Only Baruch Marzel, the Kach chief, as the only one of a dozen extremists arrested in a crackdown who remains in jail.

A Jewish underground group carried out a series of attacks on Palestinians in the early 80s before being uncovered in 1984. The group bombed Palestinian towns, killed three Palestinian students in Hebron and plotted to destroy the Al Aqsa mosque in East Jerusalem.

Kuwait dailies break taboo, report mistreatment of women

By Diana Elias
The Associated Press

KUWAIT — Two newspapers broke a longstanding taboo in this male-dominated society by publicly declaring Thursday that women who have sex out of wedlock should be treated no more harshly than men who do the same.

The English-language Arab Times and its Arabic sister publication, Al Siyassah, described in detail the sufferings of women who break the strict code of conduct.

The newspapers have been blazing a trail recently in Muslim Kuwait, publishing articles on social issues rarely discussed openly in Gulf societies.

Thursday's front-page reports were the first in the emirate to bluntly tackle the thorny moral issues of adultery and sex before marriage among Muslim women.

The reports come at a time of growing pressure from Islamic fundamentalists who are trying to introduce religious law here as in many Muslim nations.

They coincide with the U.N. Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Egypt, which has angered the Islamic World with appeals to expand birth control and

empower women. Al Siyassah managing editor Shawkat Hakim said the newspaper wanted "to show that there are points of view different from those that are dominating other publications."

The reports were based on an interview with Western-trained sociologist Haya Al Mughni, who called it "horrendous" how "the system here is hurting these women."

Women in Kuwait have more rights than many in surrounding Arab Muslim countries: They can work, drive a car and travel without permission from a husband or father.

But sex before marriage is taboo and most marriages are arranged by family or matchmakers. Those who don't obey face as much as three years in jail and a future as a social outcast. Married women face five years in jail.

First offenders are brought in for questioning. "They're incarcerated for two weeks, forced to expose every detail of their private lives... while men get away with it," Ms. Al Mughni said.

A prosecutor decides... if they go to court, where a judge may let a first-time offender off — if her lover promises to marry her or male family members

pledge not to let it happen again.

If the woman is pregnant she first goes to a government hospital ward where she stays with other unwed mothers until she gives birth. She usually is not allowed to keep the baby, which goes to an orphanage.

Ms. Al Mughni described the ward as a prison where women are kept under lock and key and denied visitors.

The sociologist, who was educated in Europe, said the women she interviewed, most ages 18 to 30, were shown no compassion. They refuse to eat, cry frequently and are unable to sleep, she said.

The job of the staff is to induce fear both to punish and prevent recurrence, she said.

Fundamentalists enjoy wide support among Kuwaitis and hold 19 of the 50 seats in the parliament elected in October 1992. They have gained popularity in the aftermath of the Gulf war with people taking more refuge than usual in religion.

Some of these lawmakers call for women waitresses in restaurants and even doormen at girls' schools threats to Islamic tenets and the morals of the young.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Coup De Bleu Dans L'Etoile
17:11 Fantomette
17:30 Desamoir
18:30 News in French
18:45 Ushuaia
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:30 Dimension
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Movies, Games, and Videos
21:30 The Campbells
22:00 News in English
22:30 Feature film: "Threesome"

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fajr
06:10 Sunrise/Duha
12:33 Dhuhur
16:06 Asr
18:56 Maghrib
20:15 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swedfield, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 657440
St. Elizabeth Church Tel. 661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel.

628543, Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Relative hot weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min/Max temp.
Amman 19/34
Amman 29/39
Desert 17/36
Jordan Valley 25/39

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 38 Humidity readings: Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Rafeq Zahoush 886485
Dr. Farouk Nour 786680
Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197
Dr. Khalid Klob 816715
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 783236
Nairokh pharmacy 626372
Al Asena pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632

IBRD:
Dr. Akram Al Momani 248795
Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Raed Attallah 984424
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630441

Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 03021
Hotel Complaints 609800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Arman Municipality Complaints 621111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Regional Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 774111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381332
Khalid Maternity J. Amn 644216
Alkhalid Maternity J. Amn 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642425

Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6641734
Shamsi Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musabir Hospital 6622719
The Islamic, Abdali 66012737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajir 7771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Marfa 89161175
Queen Alia Hospital 60224052
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Don Sima Hospital (09)986732
Al-Basm Modern Hospital (09)909099
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)225555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)22225
Don Al Nades Hospital (02)347100
Princess Haya Hospital (02)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:30 Jakarta, Singapore (H)
06:45 New Delhi (P)
06:55 Abu Dhabi, Doha (H)
07:15 Dhaka (H)
07:30 Karachi, Dubai (H)
07:45 Colombo (H)
07:55 Beirut (H)
08:05 New York, Amsterdam (H)
08:15 Cairo (H)
08:25 Istanbul (H)
08:35 Frankfurt, Vienna (H)
08:45 London, Berlin (H)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:20 Vienna (OA)
06:30 Munich, Doha (GF)
06:45 Rome, Larnaca (AZ)
06:55 Sania (Y)
07:05 Cairo (MS)
07:15 Paris, Damascus (AF)
07:25 Amsterdam (KL)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:20 Vienna (OA)
06:30 Munich, Doha (GF)
06:45 Rome, Larnaca (AZ)
06:55 Sania (Y)
07:05 Cairo (MS)
07:15 Paris, Damascus (AF)
07:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45 Beirut (RJ)
06:55 Vienna (OS)
07:05 Abu Dhabi (GF)
07:15 Sania (Y)
07:25 Cairo (MS)
07:35 Damascus, Paris (AF)
07:45 Amsterdam (KL)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:15 Beirut (ME)
06:25 Vienna (OS)
06:35 Abu Dhabi (GF)
06:45 Sania (Y)
06:55 Cairo (MS)
07:05 Damascus, Paris (AF)
07:15 Amsterdam (KL)

HIAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple 600/400
Banana 650/350
Banana (Minkammar) 650/350
Cabbage 120/60
Carrot 340/240
Cauliflower 260/180
Cucumbers (large) 180/100
Cucumbers (small) 240/160
Garlic 900/700
Grapes 460/360
Grapes (Hilwan) 850/600
Guava 340/240
Lemon 280/200
Marrow (large) 200/120
Marrow (small) 420/300
Onion (dry) 150/80
Onion (wet) 300/200
Sweet Melon 320/200
Pepper (hot) 280/200
Pepper (sweet) 300/200

مكتبة من الأناجيل



CEREMONY IN ABU NUSEIR: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma distributes diplomas to a group of women who completed a training course in dress-making and tricot work at a ceremony organised by the Abu Nuseir Women's Society Thursday (Petra photo)

Tribal feud claims 5 lives, injures 2 during wedding procession — police

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

NAOUR — Five people were killed and two others were seriously injured here Thursday when a wedding procession was attacked by gunfire in what appears to be an act of vengeance, police and family sources said Friday.

The dead include two members of the Hajar family (who were in the wedding party) and two Al Hussni family members. Both families are from the large Ajarmeh tribe of Naour and live in the village of Al All.

The fifth victim, a woman in her mid-20s who was sitting on her farm at the time of the incident, was accidentally shot in the crossfire.

A Hajar family member

who was riding in the wedding procession along the Um Al Ammad-Khadra Road Thursday evening, said members of the Hussni family were parked in two pickup trucks on the side of the road and as the procession drew near, the Hussni started firing at a minibus at the end of the small motorcade.

The 40-year-old mother of the bride, who was riding in the bus packed with children and two men, told the Jordan Times that the two pickup trucks obstructed the minibus' way and men in the vehicles started firing towards the bus.

The women said that when the passengers heard gun shots and the bus windows shattered, they all kneeled to the floor. She said meanwhile the

three Hajar men in the bus descended and started shooting back at the assailants.

"It was a scary moment in my life, and when they stopped shooting in our direction, I looked up and saw one of the men who was with us shooting two of the assailants after he himself was shot and had seen his father gunned down in front of his eyes," the woman said.

She said that she believes that the Hussni family wanted to spoil the wedding event because of a 13-year-old vendetta.

According to another family member, the feud, "a simple misunderstanding" grew out of a clash that took the lives of three people from the Hajar family and one from the Hussni. He added that

"back then" the families used machine-guns.

Police and military units were posted throughout the Naour area.

Police officials at the scene confirmed the incident but refused to comment further, saying both parties involved are in police custody.

"We are still investigating the incident, and hopefully in the next few days we will be able to determine what happened," the official told the Jordan Times.

The Civil Defence Department (CDD) identified the dead as, Mohammad Abdullah Ghaith, 45, Ibrahim Abdullah Ghaith, 47, (both brothers from the Hussni family), and Hamed Fadel, 60 and his son Ali Hamed, 28, of the Hajar

family. All were married and had children.

The bystander killed in the incident was identified as Layla S.S.

"When my daughter reached the house to celebrate the wedding, she took of her white dress and wore a black one," said the mother of the bride.

"The car that was carrying my daughter, and the other cars kept going and did not realise what was happening because they (the assailants) only attacked the vehicles at the end of the procession," she added.

Last week Minister of Social Development Mohammad Sqour called for a conference to discuss ways of abolishing the practice of tribal acts of vengeance.

Workshop to start on family, environment

AMMAN (J.T.) — A workshop entitled "Family and Environment" will begin today in celebration of the centennial of the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) and on the occasion of the year of the family, according to the YWCA.

The event, to be held at the Inter-Continental Hotel, is organised by the Centennial Committee at the YWCA of Jordan in cooperation with the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

The workshop will be held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and will consist of lectures that will tackle related environmental subjects, according to Leila Diab, general secretary of the YWCA.

Ms. Diab told the Jordan Times that subjects to be

discussed during the two-day meeting include, environmental legislation and its role in protecting the environment; health and environment, natural resources and the environment; and the role of the governmental and non-governmental women's organisations in the environment.

The event will conclude with a workshop on special environmental projects.

According to Ms. Diab, the workshop will come up with recommendations that will be implemented in future projects for the YWCA.

She added that the recommendations will be part of the YWCA participation in the 1995 celebration of the YWCA in Seoul, where 84 countries will meet from all over the world.

U.S. grants additional \$10.5m for water quality improvement project

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Planning Hisham Khatib, U.S. Ambassador in Jordan Wesley W. Egan and Director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) William T. Oliver Thursday signed amendments to two agreements providing Jordan with an additional grant of 12 million dollars, according to an embassy statement.

Under the first amendment, the statement said, USAID will provide an additional grant of \$10.5 million for the Water Quality Improvement and Conservation Project in order to upgrade the management of Jordan's scarce water resources. USAID provided \$23.3 million in grant funds for the original project in March 1993.

The Water Quality Improvement and Conservation Project focuses on making more water available to the

public through more efficient water management practices and improved wastewater treatment.

The amendment will fund feasibility studies and design projects in the water sector and will also fund the final design, construction and supervision of the water distribution and wastewater collection system for the Wadi Musa area, the statement said.

Under the second amendment, USAID will provide an additional grant of \$1.5 million to the Technical Services and Feasibility Studies V Project (TSFS-V), raising the total grant of \$21.00 million, said the statement.

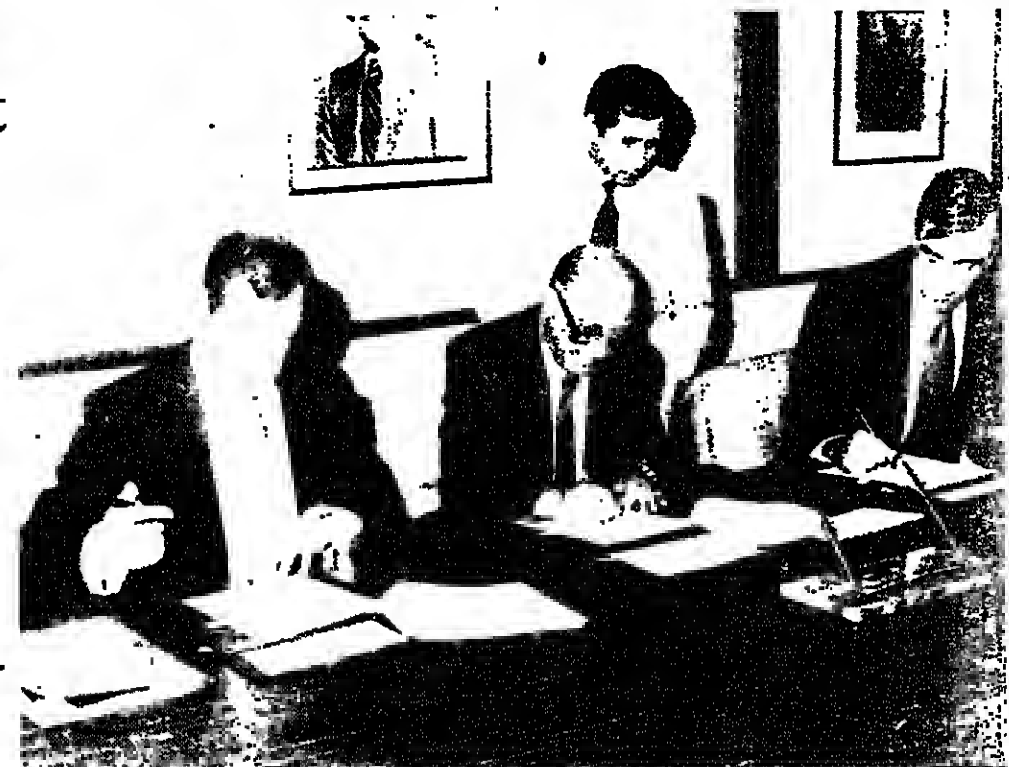
The TSFS-V Project has thus far assisted the Kingdom in various ways and in a wide range of sectors that affect public life: In the fields of water, environment and health, the TSFS-V Project upgraded the Khirbet Samra

wastewater stabilisation ponds, provided technical assistance to Al Amal National Cancer Centre and established the National Blood Bank West Amman branch.

In the tourism sector, the TSFS-V partially financed the restoration of the Amman Citadel and the renovation of the resthouses in Pella and Um Qais in the north.

In the field of housing and urban development, the TSFS-V financed the procurement of a geographical information system for the Housing and Urban Development Corporation and an automated information system for Parliament.

The TSFS-V project has also financed educational and laboratory equipment for Noor Al Hussein Foundation/Jubilee School and feasibility studies for the Amman-Na'ur-Dead-Sea road.



Minister of Planning Hisham Khatib, flanked by U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Wesley W. Egan (left) and U.S. Agency for International Development Director William T. Oliver Thursday sign two grant agreement amendments (Petra photo)

Chinese cultural week to open

By Angham Tamimi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Chinese hand paintings and coloured pictures are characterised by their neat and smooth lines, detailed and graceful drawings, and musical colours, which are bright but not vulgar and pure but not overdone.

Collaborating with the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC), the embassy of the Republic of China in Amman will hold a Chinese cultural week starting this evening.

To deepen the friendship and understanding between Jordan and China, along with marking the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of China, Minister of Culture Jumaa Hammad and Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Wang Shi will open several related festivities at the RCC.

Hand-made artefacts and hand paintings will be exhibited at the Exhibition Hall, while movies will be shown at the main theatre.

The Yangliuqing woodblock prints, the traditional Chinese New Year pictures, are the most famous of their kind in China. They date from the reign of Emperor Wanli (1573-1620 A.D.) of the Ming Dynasty.

The earliest new year picture workshops in Yangliuqing, a town southwest of Beijing, and the home of new year pictures, was once known as a place where every resident family made pictures.

Traditional subjects for these woodblock works include graceful women, children, goods, tales, theatrical characters, customs and traditions, scenery, flowers and birds. Yangliuqing new year pictures highlight the themes of jubilation, good luck, longevity and plenty, which have contributed to its

popularity. Produced through a process of combining coloured woodblock print and hand painting and colouring, these pictures have well-balanced forms which resemble those of decorative art.

In the course of its growth, the Yangliuqing new year pictures have been influenced by the culture of Imperial China of metropolises like Beijing and Tianjin, as well as western culture which was introduced into China in the Liao Dynasty.

Its unique style not only preserves the flavour of folk woodblock-printed pictures, but also derives nourishment from various art schools in its long course of development.

The cinema entered China in 1896, but film-making did not get started there until just prior to World War I.

In 1931, China produced several movies in Shanghai and other cities dealing with the Chinese people's struggle for a better life and their battle against tyranny.

During the Japanese colonisation of China, many Chinese film-makers focused on freedom, democracy, in addition to documentaries.

The first film studio was established in 1946 in north-west China. The number of general film studios quickly grew to 36 in 1949, in addition to other studios dedicated to scientific, educational, children's and documentary films.

Annually, China produces about 150 movies, involving 160,000 acting groups, and shown at 2,000 cinemas.

The six Chinese movies selected for showing at the RCC are "Lucky Star", "Red Seed", "Police in the Dragon Year", "Anthem of the Yellow River", "The Flying Magic Mouse", and "Love By Chance". All the movies are in Chinese with Arabic subtitles.



Traditional Chinese woodblock art

Canadian business delegation to arrive for trade talks

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group of Canadian business people is due here today to discuss promoting trade with Jordan through the Canada-Jordan Business Council (JCBC) and Jordanian businesspersons, according to the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) Wednesday.

A JBA statement said that the visitors, led by Salim Hirsh, represent Canadian manufacturers of auto spare parts, agricultural equipment, vehicles, medical and laboratory instruments, heavy machinery, food products, carpets, photography machines, hospital equipment, computers and road

machinery among other.

The JBA is organising a seminar Saturday to enable businesspersons from the two countries to exchange views and ideas and discuss training of personnel and matters related to the transfer of modern technology to Jordan.

The JBA statement said that the visiting group will discuss prospects of organising a Canadian trade fair in the spring of 1995 in Amman, and cooperation with JBA to organise a conference on the Middle East to be held in Canada one month before the projected Canadian fair in Amman.

A 25-member JBA delega-

tion visited Canada last June and discussed the prospects of promoting trade exchanges.

Canada's annual exports to Jordan ranged between \$15 million and \$55 million between 1987 and 1992, while Jordan's exports to that country are not worth mentioning, according to the JBA.

Canada's Ambassador to Jordan Andrew Robinson last June said Canada-Jordan trade has increased since the founding of the JCBC and could double in volume by the end of 1994.

The council was formed last year to help promote bilateral trade.

Industrialists to head for Spain to explore possible joint ventures

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Businesspersons and company owners will participate in an international industrial company meeting in Bilbao, Spain in late November to discuss joint ventures between Jordan and Spain.

The meeting, organised by the European Investment Programme (EIP) and the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC), is part of a programme launched by the European Union (EU) which will enable businesspersons from more than 300 countries to meet to exchange experiences.

"This meeting will give Jordanian business owners an opportunity to exchange knowledge and technology and agree on mutual projects and set business deals between Jordan and Spain," said Jan Pierz Pierard, representing the EU during a lecture conducted at JIC headquarters.

According to Mr. Pierard, this was an EU initiative which is designed to monitor the community policies including private sector projects. He added that this international event is designed to

stimulate the development of the less favoured regions, by encouraging small business and medium-sized companies throughout the community to establish business relationships of all kinds, especially technological, commercial and financial relationships with their counterparts in the region.

Yousef Rawabdeh, the administrative financial manager at JIC, who also addressed more than 50 attendees, said that this meeting is a good opportunity for an individual involved in the industrial sector to meet with Spanish companies.

"The aim is not to organise many meetings with companies as much as it is a way of building some kind of cooperation between the two countries," Mr. Rawabdeh said.

He added that this step by the EU comes as a part of its efforts to help Jordanian products so that they meet international standards and can compete in international markets.

"The GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) agreement is going to be implemented, and if we don't improve our products' standards, we can't compete

on the international market and we will stay behind," Mr. Rawabdeh added.

He said that there will be more than 480 Spanish companies ready to discuss business with Jordanian industrialists, including those in agriculture, and textile and leather manufacturers.

The Spanish Commercial attaché in Jordan, E.G. Santiago, who also participated in the lecture by answering attendees' questions regarding the event said: "We have a common history between Spain and the Arab World, and economy is a reality between us."

The JIC, which works according to the general investment policy of the government, aims at expanding its market and exposing it to Europe while trying to find new markets, according to Mr. Rawabdeh.

Moreover, the JIC manages the corporations' funds and investments as well as supervises the channels of their expenditure, sharing the capital of the companies and the investment ventures in cooperations and coordination with local and foreign investment corporations.

The Bilbao meeting will be held from Nov. 21-22.

WHAT'S GOING ON

CHILDREN'S SONG FESTIVAL AND PLAY

- ★ Children's song festival at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m.
- ★ Children's play in Arabic entitled "The Festival" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m.
- ★ Chinese film entitled "Lucky Stars" (with subtitles in English) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.
- ★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "Can Economy Be Liberated in the Arab World?" by Dr. Issam Al Za'im of Syria at Abdul Hameed

- Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Yousef Al Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Chinese paintings and handicrafts at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists Sa'd Al Ta'i, Talal Issa and Mahdi Al Assadi at Al 'Ain Art Gallery (Tel. 644451).
- ★ Exhibition of photographs on nature and environment at the Royal Society for the Protection of Nature.

Cuba bears down on dissidents

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Some 30 prominent Cuban dissidents have been arrested since President Fidel Castro allowed unrestricted emigration last month, the Washington Post said Friday.

Quoting the Cuban Commission of Human Rights and National Reconciliation in Havana, the daily said the crackdown was in apparent retaliation for an Aug. 5 riot in Havana and other confrontations between civilians and police.

Those arrested or put under house arrest include three lawyers, two physicians and two human rights activists, the commission said.

Commission President Elizardo Sanchez Santa Cruz said Mr. Castro is planning to use Washington's demand for an end to the maritime exodus of Cuban refugees as "pretext for massive repression" against those who criticize the government.

"You can be sure that as soon as he closes the door, the arrests and repression will begin," Mr. Sanchez said.

Talks between the United States and Cuba were expected to resume Friday in New York after a one-day break, State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said Thursday.

"We expect them (talks on Cuban immigration) to resume tomorrow," Mr. McCurry said at a briefing.

"We don't have a confirmation of that, but we're hoping that (Cuba's chief negotiator Ricardo) Alarcon will be returning to New York sometime later today

(Thursday) and we'll be in contact with the Cuban representatives tonight to confirm... a resumption of the talks sometime tomorrow morning."

Mr. McCurry said the two sides were down to "a handful of issues" but said it would be improper for him to detail the substance of these issues.

After a 45-minute meeting Wednesday, Mr. Alarcon returned to Havana for consultations following a week of discussions with U.S. officials in New York that centred on stemming the exodus of Cuban refuges.

The United States has sought to limit the discussions to immigration issues, but Cuba wants to expand them to include the 32-year-old U.S. economic embargo.

The chairman of the House of Senate Foreign Affairs Committee called Thursday for an end to the 33-year U.S. embargo against Cuba, saying the country poses no security threat to the United States.

Sen. Claiborne Pell and Rep. Lee Hamilton, both Democrats, said in a joint commentary published Thursday in the Washington Post that the Clinton administration's tightening of restrictions on Cuba in the wake of a new exodus of Cubans will not cause change in Cuba.

"No matter how hard the United States squeezes the Cuban economy, we doubt it will force the Cuban government to embrace democra-

cy," Sen. Pell and Mr. Hamilton said.

As thousands of Cubans flee and are transferred to refugee camps at U.S. military bases in Cuba and Panama, President Bill Clinton has blocked Cuban Americans from sending cash to relatives in Cuba and restricted travel to and from the nation which is 90 miles (144 kilometres) from the Florida shore.

Sen. Pell of Rhode Island is chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and Mr. Hamilton of Nebraska heads the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

They noted that many of America's closest allies in Europe and Latin America are establishing closer political and economic ties with Cuba. Only Israel, Albania and Paraguay still uphold the U.S. position at the United Nations.

"We don't think lifting the embargo immediately is politically possible," the two lawmakers said. "We may need to move gradually. But we need to move. Lifting the embargo in stages can give the United States leverage over the Cuban government, which fears openness more than isolation."

Sen. Pell and Mr. Hamilton said they support Mr. Clinton's goal of fostering democratic change in Cuba but believe he is taking a misguided approach that will have little impact on Cuban President Fidel Castro's regime.

"Castro has made a career of defying U.S. pressure and

is unlikely to yield: U.S. policy provides a convenient scapegoat for Cuba's economic woes and a rallying point for Cuban nationalism," they said.

"Unfortunately, current policy seems based on the longstanding hope that isolating Cuba will bring about change," Sen. Pell and Mr. Hamilton said. "We believe the critical challenges is to construct a policy that doesn't put the pace of change in Mr. Castro's hands but that... promotes a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba."

The days are gone, they said, when Cuba was a Soviet surrogate, fomenting revolution in Africa and Central America.

"Cuba poses no threat to the security of United States," they said. "Yet Washington's hardline stance continues — more a product of shortsighted domestic politics than prudent foreign policy considerations."

The article did not elaborate, but Mr. Clinton has been accused by others of basing his Cuba policy on the concerns of Florida Democrats who fear the loss of Cuban American votes in the November election if the pressure on Mr. Castro is reduced.

Meanwhile, documents released Thursday showed Henry Kissinger secretly sought a rapprochement with Cuba 20 years ago as U.S. secretary of state, shortly after helping to bring off the U.S. opening with China.



Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana (right) poses with members of the Cuban opposition (left to right) Alfredo Duran, Eloy Gutierrez Menoyo, and Ramon Cernaudo as he receives them for a meeting Thursday. The members of the Cuban opposition met with Mr. Solana at the Foreign Ministry in an effort to begin a dialogue which could lead to talks with the Cuban government aided by the Spanish (AFP photo)

Countdown for Haiti invasion begins

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The countdown for a United States invasion of Haiti has begun as the White House warned that the end was near for the military junta.

But the administration stopped short of setting a deadline for the Haitian generals to step down.

"The coup leaders' days are numbered. We are moving toward the end game," stressed White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers.

"Those coup leaders will leave one way or another," she said, charging there had been a dramatic increase in human rights abuses in the country.

The Pentagon activated seven warships Thursday to support the estimated 10,000 force that will be used to take the country.

All seven ships are "roll on-roll off" transporters used to carry tanks and troops.

A spokesman said they had been ordered to leave port and would be ready for action in four days.

Army Special Forces based in Fort Knox, Kentucky are to be shipped to Puerto Rico early next week for training said a spokesman for Atlantic Command.

As the military preparedness was stepped up most of President Bill Clinton's aides reportedly favour an ultimatum as well as sending an emissary back to Haiti.

Ms. Myers confirmed that the administration's special envoy for Haiti, William Gray, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff John Shalikashvili met Wednesday with exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

After Mr. Aristide's meeting with Mr. Gray and Mr. Shalikashvili, the exiled Haitian cabinet met with U.S. generals on potential technical problems that an invasion could present, a source close to Mr. Aristide said.

Mr. Clinton, returning from a 12-day holiday, and his top foreign policy and national security advisers reviewed political and diplomatic steps that would have to

be taken to launch an invasion as approved by the United Nations to restore Haiti's democracy.

The major issue discussed in the talks was whether the administration should set a public deadline for military ruler General Raoul Cedras to step down.

But the advisers unable to agree on a date for the deadline with the State Department lobbying for a letter date to allow for a U.N. peacekeeping force to be formed.

Six thousands U.N. troops are supposed to be dispatched to the Caribbean country once the invasion force, comprised of 10,000 mostly U.S. troops, has completed its mission.

Only 10 countries have so far offered to provide some 2,000 troops and 300 police in the U.N. operation, raising concerns that the United States might have to leave behind some of the forces that participated in the invasion to serve in the second phase of the operation.

Islamic nations want end to Bosnian embargo

ISLAMABAD (R) — Islamic Foreign Ministers ended a three-day meeting in Islamabad Friday with a call for the United Nations to lift an arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims.

The 51-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) gathering also pledged to pursue peace in Afghanistan and condemned what it called massive violations of human rights by Indian forces in the Delhi-controlled part of Kashmir.

The OIC asked the U.N. Security Council to "confirm" that its arms ban on the former Yugoslavia does not apply to Bosnia.

"If no Security Council confirmation is forthcoming, the OIC membership, along with other U.N. members, will come to the conclusion that members acting individually or collectively can provide the means of self-defence to the government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina," an OIC resolution said.

It set no deadline for such action by OIC members. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said Muslim countries should try to

convince the U.N. Security Council to let weapons flow to the Muslim-led Bosnian government.

He told a news conference that OIC members should use the forthcoming U.N. General Assembly in New York to convey Muslim sentiment that "enough is enough" regarding the arms ban.

"Muslims all over the world cannot tolerate one more deadlock in the peace process in Bosnia and the continuation of aggression... and violation of human rights by the Serbs," he said.

The Security Council must act decisively, Mr. Velayati said, adding that it faced a clear choice: "If they cannot defend an independent nation, let the Bosnians defend themselves."

Asked if Iran had any immediate plans to send weapons to Bosnia, he said: "We comply with Security Council resolutions. We don't want to violate international law."

The OIC urged the United Nations to tighten economic sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro, despite the rump

Yugoslav state's break with the Bosnian Serbs.

The OIC call contrasted with growing signs that the United States, Russia and European allies were prepared to ease sanctions on Serbian-led Yugoslavia if Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic accepted international monitors to check that his blockade of Serbs in Bosnia was effective.

Mr. Milosevic, keen to escape sanctions, broke with the Bosnian Serbs last month after they rejected a "peace plan for Bosnia."

The OIC vowed to continue peace efforts for Afghanistan, even though mediation by its secretary general, Hamid Al Ghabid, in July failed to halt fighting between rival Afghan factions.

Mr. Velayati said he had proposed that Mr. Ghabid hold indirect talks with Afghan leaders who were unwilling to meet each other face to face. Afghan party representatives be met on the sidelines of the OIC meeting had accepted the proposal, he added.

He said OIC peace efforts were not intended to disrupt

similar ones being pursued by the United Nations.

"We support peace in Afghanistan, anybody who can bring peace there would be welcomed by us," he declared.

Pakistan, hosting the OIC parley, said it was gratified by a resolution that urged India "to cease forthwith the massive human-rights violations of the Kashmiri people" and to allow them self-determination in line with U.N. resolutions.

India, fighting a four-year-old revolt in the two-thirds of Kashmir it rules, accuses Pakistan of arming Muslim militants in the Himalayan region. Islamabad denies the charge.

Other OIC resolutions welcomed agreements concluded as part of the Middle East peace process, while reaffirming that Israel should withdraw from all territories occupied in the 1967 war.

The OIC condemned what it called "Armenian aggression" against Azerbaijan and described Armenian actions against Azeri civilians in occupied Azeri lands as "crimes against humanity."

10 die as troops open fire in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India (AFP) — Anti-Indian protests erupted in towns and villages in northern Kashmir Friday after Indian Border Guards opened fire on a bus, killing 10 people, witnesses and hospital sources said.

The Indian authorities ordered an immediate inquiry into the shooting which occurred late Thursday near Bandipur, 62 kilometres (37 miles) north of Srinagar.

Witnesses and hospital sources said 10 people, including two women, died when members of the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) shot up the bus without provocation near Bandipur.

At least 12 people were wounded, they added, and

several of the injured have been transferred to hospitals in Srinagar, the summer capital of strife-torn Kashmir.

A senior BSF officer said the troops opened fire in retaliation after coming under attack from Kashmiri Muslim separatist militants in the bus.

"Fire came from the bus and in an exchange of fire 10 persons were killed," he said, adding that five AK-47 rifles had been recovered from the vehicle.

The deaths triggered a general strike in Bandipur and surrounding towns and hundreds of Kashmiri Muslim residents took to the streets to denounce alleged "atrocities and excesses" by

the Indian security forces. Senior Indian police and government officials have rushed to the scene of the shooting to conduct an investigation, officials here said.

The incident occurred while a senior Indian government official was touring the troubled state. Minister of State for Home Affairs Rajesh Pilot, who is in charge of internal security, was in nearby Gurez, just hours before the shooting.

Human rights groups have frequently accused Indian troops of using excessive force to quell the Islamic secessionist drive in the northern state, disputed by neighbours India and Pakistan.

India pledges more troops for U.N.

NEW DELHI (AFP) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali held wide-ranging talks with Indian leaders here Friday with New Delhi promising to contribute more troops to U.N. peacekeeping missions.

About 100 Afghan refugees staged a protest outside the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) offices here, meanwhile to complain about alleged neglect from the U.N. agency, witnesses said.

Dr. Ghali, who arrived here Thursday from Pakistan on a three-day visit, met President Shankar Dayal Sharma and the deputy foreign and defence ministers after visiting the mausoleum of independence hero Mahatma Gandhi.

U.N. officials said Dr. Ghali and the Indian officials discussed the world body's need for additional troops for peacekeeping operations

around the globe.

"Their discussions... focused on the U.N. requirement of 50,000 additional troops worldwide to fulfil its various approved mandates for peacekeeping," a U.N. spokesman said.

He said New Delhi had pledged a future contribution of Indian troops for U.N. peacekeeping operations.

"The government of India (also) said there was no wavering on the issue of its troops participating in Somalia despite the recent tragedy involving loss of Indian lives in that mission," the U.N. spokesman said.

Three Indian doctors and seven soldiers have been killed by Somalia gunmen in the past few weeks. India has contributed 5,000 troops to the multi-national force in the African state.

Diplomatic sources said the U.N. secretary-general was also likely to meet here

with the wife of Afghan President Najibullah, who was deposed in 1991 by a coalition of Mujahideen factions.

New Delhi provided shelter to Mr. Najibullah's wife and daughters following his overthrow and the former president is believed to be in hiding in a U.N. complex in Kabul.

"The meeting is not happening with the disagreement of the Indian government. It is just looking the other way," one diplomat said of Dr. Ghali's reported plan to meet Mr. Najibullah's wife.

Several top members of Najibullah's toppled regime are also living in the Indian capital, home to thousands of Afghans who fled the war-torn country before and after the change of guard in Kabul.

In Pakistan, Dr. Ghali said he would act as an "honest broker" to encourage a dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve their Kashmir dispute.

Kohl urges U.S. to stay involved in Germany

BERLIN (R) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking a day after the final departure of allied troops from Berlin, urged the United States Friday to keep sending its soldiers, students and investors to Germany.

Mr. Kohl told a U.S.-German business conference that Europe as a whole, and Germany especially, needed a continued American presence at it headed into a new period of global challenges.

"We in Germany stand by our position that the Americans can sit as long as they want in the European house," he said.

"We need a stable European house and the Americans need a permanent room in it for all time, with no ifs, ands or buts."

Edward Reuter, chairman of Carmaker Daimler-Benz AG, went further, proposing to the meeting a transatlantic free trade zone that would maximise economic benefits and neutralise the potential for political strains between the two regions.

Berlin said farewell and "thank you" Thursday night to the American, British and French troops who guarded its Western sectors through 49 years of cold war tensions, detente and the tumultuous rush towards German unity in 1990.

The Berlin pullout and post-unity drawdown in both parts of Germany means the levels of foreign troops in all of the country has plummeted from more than 700,000 to just over 100,000.

In the many solemn speeches given during the day, Mr. Kohl and his guests — French President Francois Mitterrand, British Prime Minister John Major and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher — hailed

West Berlin's defence as one of the great success stories of modern history.

The city of Berlin and the U.S. embassy in Bonn wasted no time in urging the star-studded conference to launch what they called "new traditions" in German-American relations. "There cannot be enough American capital invested in Germany," Mr. Kohl said, "and I'm happy about every German investor in America."

"We are passionately in favour of keeping American soldiers here," he said. "I hope the insight of American congressmen will always be deep enough (to see this). This is also in America's fundamental interests."

The chancellor said the "Atlantic bridge," as Germans call their relationship with the U.S., had consisted mostly of military ties during the cold war period.

"This is a new era — the war and post-war eras are over," Mr. Kohl said. "It's time to build new lanes on this bridge."

Bilateral ties should focus more on trade and investment, scientific exchanges and youth programmes to foster a new understanding between the two countries, he added.

Mr. Kohl also urged Americans in his audience not to listen to critics who said the torchlit military tattoo performed at the Brandenburg Gate to depart the allies recalled the marches of the Nazis through that Berlin landmark.

Noting that two-thirds of all Germans were born after World War II, he said: "They don't deny history but they look to the future and they want to look ahead with their European and American friends."

Mr. Reuter, one of many leading German and U.S. businessmen at the conference, said a transatlantic free trade zone could boost trade and investment tremendously and create millions of jobs.

"How minuscule the highly publicised efforts of the G7 (Group of Seven industrial nations) and the European Union look by comparison," he remarked.

Western forces and Soviet troops entered Berlin in 1945 as allied conquerors but split as the cold war set in. Departure of Western forces, agreed in 1990 as Germany reunited, was delayed until Russian troops left eastern Germany at the end of August.

Mr. Christopher pledged Thursday that the United States would continue to keep 100,000 troops in Europe despite winding up its 49-year military presence in Berlin.

"Today, our commitment to a stable, secure and prosperous Europe remains undiminished," Mr. Christopher said during ceremonies to mark the departure of the World War II allies from Berlin.

"Even as our troops leave Berlin, 100,000 American servicemen and women will remain in Europe," he told an audience of allied officials and diplomats at the Schauspielhaus Theatre in the city's former eastern sector.

Although the figure of 100,000 troops — about one third of the level during the cold war — was set earlier this year by President Bill Clinton, Mr. Christopher's reaffirmation suggested there were no plans to reduce it further in the near future.

Despite the pull-out from Berlin, other parts of Germany will still be host to

soldiers from six nations who share in the defence of Europe's central power.

U.S. military officials said the number of American troops in Berlin — some 7,000 just three years ago — was down to about 80 today with the last handful due to leave in two to three months.

Meanwhile, held back behind police barricades and far from the ceremonies marking the 1948-49 allied airlift, hundreds of elderly Berliners gathered Thursday to mark events they could neither see nor hear.

The visitors pushed up against police lines in a futile effort to witness the events. Many offered fond memories of the allied planes that kept Berlin alive during 15 months of a Soviet land blockade.

"It was the sound of freedom," said local resident Dorothea Greise, 79, recalling the sound of the flights in 1948 and 1949.

"The planes taking off and landing all through the night was such a beautiful noise," she added. "We would all get so depressed and frightened whenever the flights were stopped because of bad weather. The noise was just so wonderful."

The airlift was a crucial moment in the early days of the cold war, instantly transforming the Western allies' role in Germany from conqueror to protector.

It followed a Soviet decision in May 1948 to close land routes to West Berlin in a futile effort to force the Western allies out.

For 462 days U.S. and British planes flew 277,000 flights to the beleaguered enclave. Seventy allied airmen died in crashes and accidents on the ground during the airlift. Planes took off and landed every two minutes.

Jacksons steal show at MTV video awards

NEW YORK (R) — He wasn't even nominated, but embattled pop star Michael Jackson, joined by bride Lisa Marie Presley, was a clear winner at the MTV video music awards. The pair received a standing ovation from the crowd of 5,700 at Radio City Music Hall, an art deco palace. Jackson, looking a bit nervous, welcomed the crowd. As his bride of three months looked on, he said: "And nobody thought this could last." Never one to be upstaged, however, was host Roseanne, who has dropped her last name, Arnold. The comic kept her controversial image alive by saying she was not upset over her impending divorce from actor Tom Arnold. "I'm only upset that I'm not a widow," she said. She also joked that she was the oldest woman to appear on the awards show — after Cher — and said she was certainly the fattest. The awards, in their 11th year, have come to rival the Grammys in importance in the music industry, reflecting the importance of the video network on the world of music. Among early winners were Janet Jackson in the category of Best Female Video for If. She thanked her fans and made no reference to her brother. The duo Salt-N-Pepa joined by En Vogue won for the Dance Video Whatta Man. Bruce Springsteen won best video from a film for his song Streets of Philadelphia from the film Philadelphia, which won Tom Hanks an Oscar as a man battling AIDS.

Noisy neighbour gets 3-month jail sentence

BRISTOL, England (AFP) — An English court sent a man to jail for three months for playing music at full volume, sometimes till the early hours of the morning, without the consent of his neighbours. Michael Higgins was sent to prison after he ignored a previous court case decision expressly forbidding him from playing music. Mr. Higgins' musical taste was mainstream — Sting, Diana Ross and Lisa Stansfield — but he insisted on using a microphone to link the records he played as if he was a disc jockey. The Bristol City Council had previously confiscated his hi-fi and taken him to court twice but without success.

South director seeks U.S. distributor

TORONTO (AP) — His last film released in the United States, Mediterranean, won the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film. His latest work, the comedy South, seems a sure bet to be another art-house favourite. That is, if Gabriele Salvatores can find a U.S. distributor. South could find a taker at the Toronto Film Festival, which began Thursday. Representatives from Miramax Films, Sony Pictures Classics and other art-house distributors are here and the festival has a long tradition of helping foreign films break through in the United States, Europe, Japan and elsewhere.

This year's 10-year festival offers 296 films from 45 countries. Many foreign films like South don't sell immediately in the United States, said Victor Lowmy, president of Alliance Releasing, the film's Canadian distributor. "It's sort of standard. The company that sells the film doesn't do its job properly," Lowmy said Thursday. "We bought My Life As A Dog a year and a half before the U.S. picked it up. It went on to be very successful in America." A cross between Dog Day Afternoon and the Patty Hearst kidnapping, South begins on election day in a small town in the south of Italy. The powerful Senator Cannavacciuolo has arrived to make sure he retains his office in the usual way: Stuffing the ballot box. His main opposition comes from an unemployed, unstable ex-union leader, Ciro Ascareno, who leads a small armed gang's takeover of the local polling station. They unfurl a large red banner reading "basta" (Enough), and take a young couple hostage. One of them, Ciro soon discovers, is Gen. Cannavacciuolo's daughter, Lucia. The film then tells the funny story of how Ciro and his henchmen rebels fight over everything from food to racism.

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Rwandan refugees wash themselves and their clothes in a stream, which crosses the Katala camp, 50 kilometres from the Zairian town of Goma (AFP photo)

2 killed by bomb in southwest Rwanda — U.N.

KIGALI (Agencies) — Two people are reported to have been killed by a bomb explosion this week in the humanitarian safety zone in southwestern Rwanda, U.N. military spokesman Major Jean-Guy Plante said Friday.

Maj. Plante said arrests were reported to have been made afterwards, adding that he expected to give further details of the incident later, but he played down reports that troops and extremist militias of the ousted Hutu-majority government were preparing for guerrilla war.

In another incident, a mine exploded on a road near the Rwandan capital Kigali, but nobody was hurt, Maj. Plante said.

"Preliminary findings" showed that the mine was "reasonably fresh," Maj. Plante said. "We think it could have been planted not too long ago."

In response to media reports this week, based on an internal U.N. document, that Hutu soldiers and militias who fled to neighbouring Zaire as the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) seized control in July could be preparing for a counter-attack, Maj. Plante said: "I don't think it will ever take place."

Troops of the U.N. Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), who deployed in the southwest late last month after French soldiers

withdrew from the security zone they established there to prevent ethnic carnage, had not found any arms caches in the region.

Apart from weapons voluntarily handed in to the African U.N. troops, UNAMIR had also unearthed a "very, very small number of weapons," Maj. Plante said. "I would never qualify this as arms caches."

The Tutsi-led RPF, which opposed the two-month-long French presence in the zone, plans within the next two weeks to deploy almost 2,000 soldiers there in close cooperation with UNAMIR, the government announced this week.

The U.N. document that circulated among journalists Thursday and spoke of possible guerrilla warfare launched by defeated Hutu troops in Zaire was based on "rumours" and "raw information," Maj. Plante said, not on "intelligence."

At U.N. headquarters in New York Thursday, the spokesman for U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali, Joe Sills, acknowledged that an "internal situation report" prepared by UNAMIR officials had confirmed the presence of armed guerrillas in the southwest.

But he said: "We are talking about a very small number of people that are lightly armed and this should not be

taken as a warning of an imminent outbreak of hostilities."

On Thursday, U.N. special envoy to Rwanda Shahyar Khan said that the report was speculation, but nevertheless expressed concern about talk among former government soldiers in Zaire about counter-attacking against the RPF.

The new government, which includes moderate Hutus, wants to bring to trial up to 30,000 people it accuses of the genocide of about one million Tutsis and Hutu opponents after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a suspicious plane crash on April 6.

Japan plans to send more than 480 troops to Zaire from Sept. 16 for three months on a humanitarian mission to help the Rwandan refugees, Jiji Press reported Friday.

The news agency said the Defence Agency was scheduled to dispatch the soldiers to the Zairean town of Goma to engage in medical treatment, water supply and air transport.

Meanwhile Zaire's prime minister said Thursday there was no question of returning property taken out of Rwanda by fleeing ministers until the government in Kigali had persuaded Hutu refugees to go back home.

Prime Minister Kengo Wa Dondo told a press confer-

ence the Tutsi-dominated government in Rwanda still had to prove it enjoyed the support of the hundreds of thousands of Hutus who fled to Tanzania and Zaire when the rebels swept to power.

"Let this population return and grant the government what it so cruelly lacks today, i.e. popular legitimacy. Then, and only then, will we return the goods that belong to the Rwandan state," said Mr. Kengo.

Mr. Kengo pointed out that Rwanda's government-in-exile was also demanding the return of the cars, weapons, radio equipment and factory equipment Kigali is claiming and its requests were being ignored on the grounds that it enjoyed no legitimacy.

Many weapons were confiscated by Zairean troops as the retreating Hutu army fled out of Rwanda in July.

The restitution of the stolen property, the return of the refugees living in the squalid camps of Goma and Bukavu and the risk presented by the presence of 28,000 former Rwandan soldiers in Zaire were at the heart of talks between the two governments earlier this month.

But the talks failed to produce solid commitment and the two countries' premiers are due to tackle them again at another meeting.

French entertainers to join anti-China rally

PARIS (R) — French show business stars plan to join a protest march against visiting Chinese President Jiang Zemin, defying a French government ban on demonstrations during his stay, organisers said Friday.

French authorities, mindful of the protests which forced China's premier to curtail a tour of Germany in July, banned protests for a visit designed to bury a row over the sale of French fighter aircraft to Taiwan and yield business contracts.

Human rights activists accused Paris of bowing to pressure from Chinese officials who are anxious to avoid embarrassment for Mr. Jiang, and they vowed to go ahead with a rally planned for Thursday night in Paris.

In the Mediterranean port of Marseille, first leg of Mr. Jiang's tour police Friday questioned several people as

they tried to deploy a Tibetan flag at Notre-Dame De La Garde Cathedral.

Several hundred policemen patrolled the city to enforce the demonstrations ban. A protest by Tibetan groups was cancelled.

But in Paris, singers Johnny Hallyday, Yves Duteil, Francoise Hardy and Alain Bashung, former government Minister Bernard Kouchner and philosopher-writer Andre Glucksmann pledged they would take part in a rally in Paris, the organisers said.

"The march has been banned but it's still on. Does China's economic potential justify being silent on the crimes of its leaders?" a spokeswoman for the organisers said.

"The right to demonstrate is enshrined in the constitution," the Support Committee for the Tibetan People said. "France, the country of

the rights of man, not only imports goods from labour camps in China and in Tibet, but also China's methods of repression."

China curbed trade with France after Paris sold 60 Mirage fighters to Taiwan in late 1992, causing losses estimated by French business to more than \$1 billion. Mr. Jiang's visit caps France's year-long struggle to end the freeze in relations.

The France-Libertes Association, headed by Mr. Mitterrand's wife Danielle Mitterrand, will be among a host of human rights groups at the rally.

The march is due to start near the Chinese embassy by the River Seine at p.m. (1600 GMT) and end at the Trocadero across the river from the Eiffel Tower. At some point, it will pause for a minute's silence in a tribute to the victims of Chinese

repression of political opponents.

Concern over human rights in China and the ban on protests have clouded Mr. Jiang's high-profile, five-day state visit.

On his first full day in France, Mr. Jiang Friday toured the Chateau d'If in Marseille, made famous by Alexandre Dumas in his novel The Count Of Monte Cristo.

He will travel to Paris for talks with Mr. Mitterrand and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe, followed by a state dinner at the Elysee Palace.

Mr. Mitterrand's adviser on Chinese affairs, Jean Levy, said he would "without doubt" raise the issue of human rights.

"You can count on him," Mr. Levy told members of pro-democracy movements at a meeting Wednesday night.

N. Korea calls for early peace treaty with U.S.

TOKYO (R) — North Korea said Friday that one of the most pressing issues facing it was a peace treaty with the United States.

"It is natural to do so (sign a peace pact) in view of the need to fully normalise the DPRK-U.S. relations and remove the nuclear threat to us..." a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The spokesman was quoted in a statement by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo.

"Since an agreement on non-aggression was adopted between the North and the South long ago, if a peace arrangement is established between us and the United States which has its troops in South Korea and holds operational control of the South Korean Armed Forces, it would mean the creation of a most durable and strict peace mechanism on the Korean peninsula," the spokesman said.

An early peace treaty was needed to secure peace and security on the Korean penin-

the eve of two sets of expert-level talks Saturday, one in Pyongyang on possible future liaison offices, and the other in Berlin on North Korea's controversial nuclear programme.

U.N. Assistant Secretary of State Robert Gallucci will visit South Korea next week to discuss both countries' policy on North Korea's suspected nuclear weapons programme, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported Friday.

Yonhap said Mr. Gallucci, chief U.S. negotiator at the current high-level talks with North Korea, will visit Seoul for three days beginning next Wednesday to meet Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo, Defence Minister Rhee Byung-Tae and Chung Chong-Wook, senior presidential aide on diplomatic and security affairs.

It said Mr. Gallucci and the South Korean officials would adjust both countries' positions on North Korea ahead of a second round of U.S.-North Korean high-level talks in Geneva scheduled for

man declined to confirm the report but said the exact timetable for a visit by Mr. Gallucci would be officially announced next Monday.

Yonhap said Lynn Turk, who is in charge of Korean Affairs at the U.S. State Department and leads U.S. delegates to expert-level talks with North Korean officials in Pyongyang on exchanging liaison offices between the two countries, would accompany Mr. Gallucci following the Pyongyang talks.

The Berlin meeting is aimed at covering the delivery to Pyongyang of a light-water reactor by Washington and the provision of alternative energy sources to replace the North's graphite-moderated reactors.

The United States and South Korea have been leading an effort to compel the North to open its nuclear facilities to unfettered international inspection to quell suspicions Pyongyang is developing nuclear weapons.

Mr. Gallucci's visit to Seoul would follow a trip to

Seoul, Yonhap said.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry, speaking on the eve of the new negotiations pledged Friday that Washington was determined to hold out for a "non-nuclear Korean peninsula."

"We want a Korean peninsula that is entirely free of nuclear weapons or the facility for developing nuclear weapons," Mr. Perry told journalists, stressing that Washington would not compromise on this question.

Mr. Perry said Washington was seeking to outline a proposal for acceptance by the North Korean authorities which would allow fulfilment of this objective.

He mentioned an offer to supply North Korea with a "light-water" nuclear reactor for its commercial power needs, replacing the current graphite system which is more easily able to produce plutonium, needed to develop nuclear bombs.

131 die in USAir jet crash

PITTSBURGH, Pennsylvania (AFP) — The USAir jetliner that crashed into a densely wooded area near here, killing all 131 people aboard, left such carnage and devastation that some of victims may never be identified, authorities said Friday.

The Boeing 737 was approaching to land shortly after 7 p.m. (2300 GMT) Thursday when it suddenly nosedived and plunged to the ground, leaving body parts and debris dangling from the trees. There were no survivors, authorities said.

"This plane was decimated. The scene is one of absolute carnage. What we have are fragments of an airplane and literally small remains of people that were aboard that plane," said Pennsylvania Lieutenant Governor Mark Singel.

Authorities immediately sealed off the area while experts from the National Transportation and Safety Board began a survey of the crash site in rugged, hilly terrain about 20 miles (32 kilometres) northeast of this industrial city.

Rescue workers had retrieved the plane's black box which records cockpit conversations and flight data, said Lt. Eichenlaub.

About 20 coroners and a team of FBI fingerprint experts were awaiting the go ahead to begin the grisly task of removing and identifying the bodies of those aboard U.S. Flight 427.

"Due to the severity of the crash, the enormity of the

crash, a lot of body parts are strewn all over the area," said Beaver County Coroner Wayne Totolovitch.

"Even with the expertise that we have, there is the possibility that some people may not be identified," he said.

There were 126 passengers and five crew aboard Flight 427, which originated in Chicago and was due to fly on the West Palm Beach, Florida. "We have done a fairly extensive search of the area and there are no survivors," said Mr. Eichenlaub.

USAir Assistant Vice President David Shipley said the cause of the crash was unknown. Air officials said that the weather was clear at the time of the crash.

It was the financially troubled airline's fifth fatal crash in as many years and the worst in the United States since 1987.

Contact with the plane was lost at 6,000 feet about six or seven miles (9.6 to 11.2 kilometres) from the airport, airport officials said.

One eyewitness told CNN that the engines died before the plane went down.

"The plane just cut off and went down. It happened so quickly. The plane — there is nothing left. It just blew up," said Sandra Ziback, who lives half-a-mile (800 metres) from the crash site.

"You looked up and heard this funny noise like a car backfiring," she added. "It was smoking as it was coming down. I just couldn't believe

what I saw."

Another eyewitness said a fire broke out after impact. A nurse who had been at a nearby shopping centre said she rushed to the scene immediately after the crash to try to help.

"All we saw were body parts banging from the trees and just people everywhere, just parts of them," said Denise Godich. She said her husband saw just one intact body, that of a three — or four-year-old girl.

Heavy equipment was being brought to the accident site to build a makeshift road to facilitate emergency operations.

A temporary morgue would be set up at the airport, said Arthur Gilkes of the Allegheny County Coroner's Office.

Mental health professionals were sent to the airport to assist friends and relatives of the victims.

The accident is the worst aviation disaster in the United States since Aug. 16, 1987, when a Northwest Airlines MD-80 crashed in Detroit, Michigan killing 156 people. The single survivor was a four-year-old girl.

Internationally, the accident is the worst since April 26 when a Taiwanese jet crashed in Nagoya, Japan killing 264. There were seven survivors.

Thirty-seven people were killed two months ago when a USAir aircraft went down in a thunderstorm in North Carolina.

In March 1992, an USAir aircraft crashed on takeoff in a snowstorm at New York's LaGuardia Airport, killing 27 people. A USAir jetliner and a commuter plane collided on a Los Angeles airport runway in February 1991, killing 34.

On Sept. 20, 1989, a USAir jet with 62 people on board skidded off a runway and into the East River at LaGuardia Airport near New York. Two people were killed.

Mr. Shipley defended the carrier's safety record. "There is no question the 737-300 is a completely safe aircraft," he added.

He said the crashes had no common thread and said a rumour that USAir was under investigation for improper maintenance of its fleet of 737s was not true.

The 737 involved in Thursday's crash had been delivered to USAir in October 1987 by Boeing Commercial Airplane Group, in Renton, Washington, a company spokesman said.

Boeing began manufacturing its first generation of 737s in 1967. The spokesman said it was the best-selling aircraft in aviation history.

USAir, based in Arlington, Virginia, has been losing money since 1989. Last year it lost \$393 million and \$182.8 million in the first half of 1994.

The airline recently shelved plans to renovate its older planes, telling Boeing to postpone for at least six years the delivery of 40 jets and cancel options to buy another 76 jets.

Malaysia police raid Al Arqam commune

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysian police detained 121 followers of the outlawed Al Arqam messianic sect Friday, the Malaysian News Agency, Bernama, reported.

Bernama said those arrested at the commune in the west coast state of Negri Sembilan included 22 women and 89 children. They were escorted out under heavy guard by federal riot police.

One of the women, Kartini Manaf, is the daughter-in-law of Al Arqam leader Ashaari Mohammad, 57, who has been held under the Internal Security Act, which allows for detention of up to two years without charges or a trial, since his arrest last Friday on the Thai-Malaysian border.

Negri Sembilan Islamic Affairs Director Mohammad Hussin told Bernama that up to 50 followers will be charged with breaching a fatwa (religious ruling) banning the Al Arqam sect.

The children would be released, he said.

Most of the men, including Kartini's husband, Ikramullah Ashaari, who is also the commune leader, were not at home.

Meanwhile, Selangor state Police Chief Yaacob Amin said poultry seller Ibrahim Mohammad was detained at a Kuala Lumpur market Thursday under the ISA.

A police source told Reuters Mr. Ibrahim was responsible for Al Arqam's poultry business in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

Others held under the ISA include Mr. Ashaari's wife, Khatijah Aam, aides Said Sulaiman and Jailani Jasmani, and Al Arqam legal adviser Zabidi Mohammad.

Malaysian religious authorities banned the messianic sect on Aug. 5, branding it as a deviationist cult. Three weeks later the government declared it a security threat.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad told reporters Thursday the government's action had been pre-emptive.

"They had not yet become a security threat, but they might have, if we had left them alone," Mr. Mahathir said. "As a government responsible for protecting Islam, we had to take action to stop them."

Islam is the official religion in Malaysia, although the country's laws are secular.

The government launched a campaign against Al Arqam in June, accusing it of training "suicide warriors" in Bangkok. It backed down later when Thai authorities denied the charge.

Mr. Ashaari and his top aides had lived in Thailand for the past six years before



Local residents and worshippers wave peace flags and sing songs as they join in a peace demonstration outside Sarajevo's main cathedral on the day the Bosnian capital was

expecting the visit of Pope John Paul II. The visit of the Pontiff earlier this week was cancelled due to the lack of security (AFP photo)

One killed as Serbs attack Bihac

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Rebel Serbs kept up pressure on government forces holding the northwestern Bihac pocket Friday as Sarajevo area ceasefire violations hit a seven-month high, U.N. official said.

A woman was killed and four people badly injured by rocket fire inside the Bihac enclave, where Serb forces are clashing with Bosnian government forces, U.N. protection force (UNPROFOR) spokesman Paul Risley, said.

Mr. Risley said the casualties occurred when three 276mm rockets exploded in the centre of Velika Kladusa, in the northern part of Bihac. He was unable to specify exactly where the rockets had been fired from.

Velika Kladusa, the former stronghold of renegade Muslim leader Fikret Abdic, fell to Muslim government forces on Aug. 20.

The upsurge in fighting in Bihac, where Serb forces launched a tank-backed strike Thursday, came amid a fresh wave of ethnic cleansing in the Bijeljina region of northeastern Bosnia.

Those moves mocked assurances by Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic that he had ordered a stop to the expulsions.

Some 500 rebel Serbs from Croatia's breakaway Krajina region, supported by eight tanks, meanwhile struck against Bosnian government

forces in the northeastern sector of the Bihac region Thursday, the first such attack since April 1993.

U.N. Protection Force spokesman Commander Eric Chaperon said the Croatian Serbs had attacked in the Zirovac area, but added: "It appears that the main BiH (Bosnian army) defence positions have still to be breached."

The Croatian Serbs had advanced no more than one kilometre, contradicting earlier reports from Zagreb that they had penetrated 10 kilometres (about six miles) into Bihac.

Two British Sea Harrier jump jets enforcing the no-fly zone over Bosnia were targeted over Bihac Thursday by a SAM anti-aircraft missile, Maj. Chaperon said, but managed to take evasive action and return safely to their aircraft carrier Invincible, stationed off the Adriatic coast.

Bosnian Serb forces meanwhile continued a four-day offensive against Bosnian government defensive positions along Bosnia's eastern front in a separate attack on the front line between Otoka and Kokovaca.

"They appear to have crossed in one limited area the river Bosna, north of the town (Bihac), and along the second main road in the pocket," said Maj. Chaperon.

There was no evidence

Bosnian and Croatian Serbs were coordinating their attacks, the UNPROFOR spokesman said.

UNPROFOR spokesman Claire Girmes characterised the Croatian Serb attack as "a very serious development," and warned all sides not to attack civilians.

Bihac town is a U.N.-declared safe haven. Attacks on it can be punished in theory by airstrikes by North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) warplanes.

Maj. Chaperon also reported an offensive by the Bosnian army's Fifth Corps in a separate part of the Bihac region around the Grabez Plateau and Osoje area, where it was reported to have made some advances.

The increased military activity was concentrated south of the besieged capital near the Mount Igman road, used by the Bosnian army to resupply its forces and move troops.

Meanwhile Lisa Jones, spokeswoman of the International Committee of the Red Cross, said the Bosnian Serbs had expelled up to 600 Muslims from the northeastern Bijeljina region Thursday.

The fresh expulsions were being carried out purely hours after Mr. Karadzic told Sergio Vieira de Mello, head of U.N. civilian affairs in ex-Yugoslavia, he had ordered the sacking of the Bijeljina police chief in a bid to halt the process.

Major takes attack to Blair on crime

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister John Major announced a crackdown on crime Friday to try to regain the initiative on an issue that has helped propel opposition leader Tony Blair to a record lead in opinion polls.

Mr. Major, calling for a "real national effort to build an anti-yob culture," ruled out legalisation of soft drugs and said the government was considering introducing identity cards to cut crime and fraud.

"I make no apology for taking a harder line approach with the criminal," Mr. Ma-

Foundation, a right-wing think-tank, "crime is a decision, not a disease. There is no excuse for crime."

The speech marked an end to the political honeymoon for Mr. Blair, who succeeded the late John Smith as head of the main opposition Labour Party in July.

Mr. Blair shot to prominence as Labour's home affairs spokesman with the motto "tough on crime, tough on the causes of crime" — a slogan that encapsulated his appeal as a sensible moderate.

Surveys show more and more voters now want

tional Conservative preserve — and a Gallup poll in Friday's Daily Telegraph gave Labour a record lead over the Conservatives of 56.5 per cent to 22 per cent.

With the annual Conservative Party conference just a month away, Mr. Major sought to steady his supporters' nerves by promising a "national partnership against crime."

"People rightly deplore elements of what could be called a 'yob culture'. Well, let us set ourselves an objective to change it. Make a real national effort to build an

Jordan Times

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Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Editor General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

FAX: 21497 ALRAI JO

Telex: 696183

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Arabs for Algeria peace

THE ALGERIAN Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) is edging closer to a renewed dialogue with President Liamine Zeroual after offering to renounce violence in favour of negotiations with the central government. The FIS has imposed some conditions which may not be too difficult for President Zeroual to accept. The first announced condition is to conduct the negotiations on the basis of the constitution of the land. This demand would be hard to turn down since all parties are expected to honour their country's organic law. The second is to recognise the FIS as a political party. This request appears reasonable if true and lasting reconciliation is to be achieved. The third, which could be the most formidable for the time being, is to release all political prisoners belonging to the FIS. There are already signs that the Algerian authorities are moving in that direction. Some 200 Algerian journalists detained without charge for two years were released last week in a move that promises freedom for other detainees. There is already talk of freeing the former head of FIS's provisional executive bureau as well as a lawyer on the FIS payroll.

The stage for these positive developments is in fact set by the talks already started between the government and five moderate opposition parties. This is good news that appears to be in conformity with the spirit of the new era in regional and international conflicts.

The civil strife in Algeria, which was launched off in 1992 when the FIS was banned and denied the fruit of its victory in the national elections, has claimed the lives of over 10,000 people as confirmed by Zeroual Wednesday. Both the Algerian president and FIS leader Abbass Madani must have come to the inevitable conclusion that there can be no victor in their bloody conflict and the standoff between them must be resolved at the negotiating table instead of through the barrel of a gun. And any meaningful reconciliation talks between the government and FIS and the rest of the opposition groups must necessarily entail compromise by both sides.

France, which has a stake in Algerian stability, seems to be prodding the parties to negotiate in earnest. French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Monday that attempts to bring about political dialogue in Algeria are going "in the right direction." Other neighbouring governments must also help the ongoing effort to attain national reconciliation notably from the Middle East, should the Arab Maghreb states not be in a position to contribute to the settlement of the Algerian crisis. Arab capitals with clout in Algeria are called upon to play a leading role towards this end.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

TAREQ MASARWEH, a columnist in Al Ra'i, urged Jordanian political parties to undertake programmes aimed at helping to find solutions for many ills facing the nation. It is true that our political parties are still growing but these parties should take a lesson from the past when previous parties failed because they failed to adopt programmes benefiting the country at the national level and covering all sectors, said the writer. The time is ripe for the political parties to move on from mere slogans to practical programmes to promote the country's social, cultural, educational and political life and it is time for these parties to join forces to serve their countrymen. We were saddened to see heads of political parties presenting only vague ideas concerning reform and development during the meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, unlike the bankers and the businessmen who were more clear in their ideas and their demands, said the writer. It was clear from the debate, said the writer, that the bankers and the economists had done their homework, something which is lacking in the political parties.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour reflected on recent comments by the Iranian Foreign Minister in Oman, in which he called for lifting the embargo on Iraq. One can only wonder what these statements mean at a time when Iraq still holds Iraqi prisoners of war, Iraqi civilian and war crimes and continues to adopt hostile attitudes towards Baghdad, said Saleh Al Qallab. Assuming that Iran has good intentions, one would expect Tehran to release the prisoners and the Iraqi planes and stop all support for the Iraqi opposition groups now living in Iraq. The writer said that above all one should expect Tehran to open its borders with Iraq to resume normal relations and trade without any regard to the U.N.-imposed sanctions.

Jordanian Perspective

By Dr. Musa Keilani

The case against lifting the boycott

THE UNITED States and Europe have stepped up pressure on the Arab World to lift the economic boycott of Israel in a clear bid to take advantage of the political situation following the breakthrough in the Jordanian-Israeli track of negotiations. Since the beginning of the Middle East peace process, the pressure is indeed too much to take for some countries, while some others, particularly some of the Gulf states, are more than willing to succumb to the combined and individual efforts exerted by Washington and European capitals.

As far as we in Jordan are concerned, there are two aspects to the economic boycott of Israel. First of all, the economic boycott was adopted under a resolution endorsed by the Arab League. As such, it would need another Arab League resolution to nullify the boycott. The second is the Jordanian quest to regain its water and territorial rights.

Even if the Arab League, by some miracle, adopts a resolution lifting the boycott, Jordan would not rush into normalising trade relations with Israel for one simple reason: The Kingdom is still far from securing its rights from Israel and, as such lifting the boycott at this point in time would only be counterproductive to our interests since the Israelis would reap the benefit of making peace without having to return our rights to us. This would enable Israel to stiffen its position, opening the door for further procrastinations and delays in arriving at meaningful settlements to the core of the Jordanian-Israeli track of the negotiations.

Washington, more than anyone else, should be aware of this fact. The Jordanian position is not a political play but stand based on sound judgement and negotiating strategy.

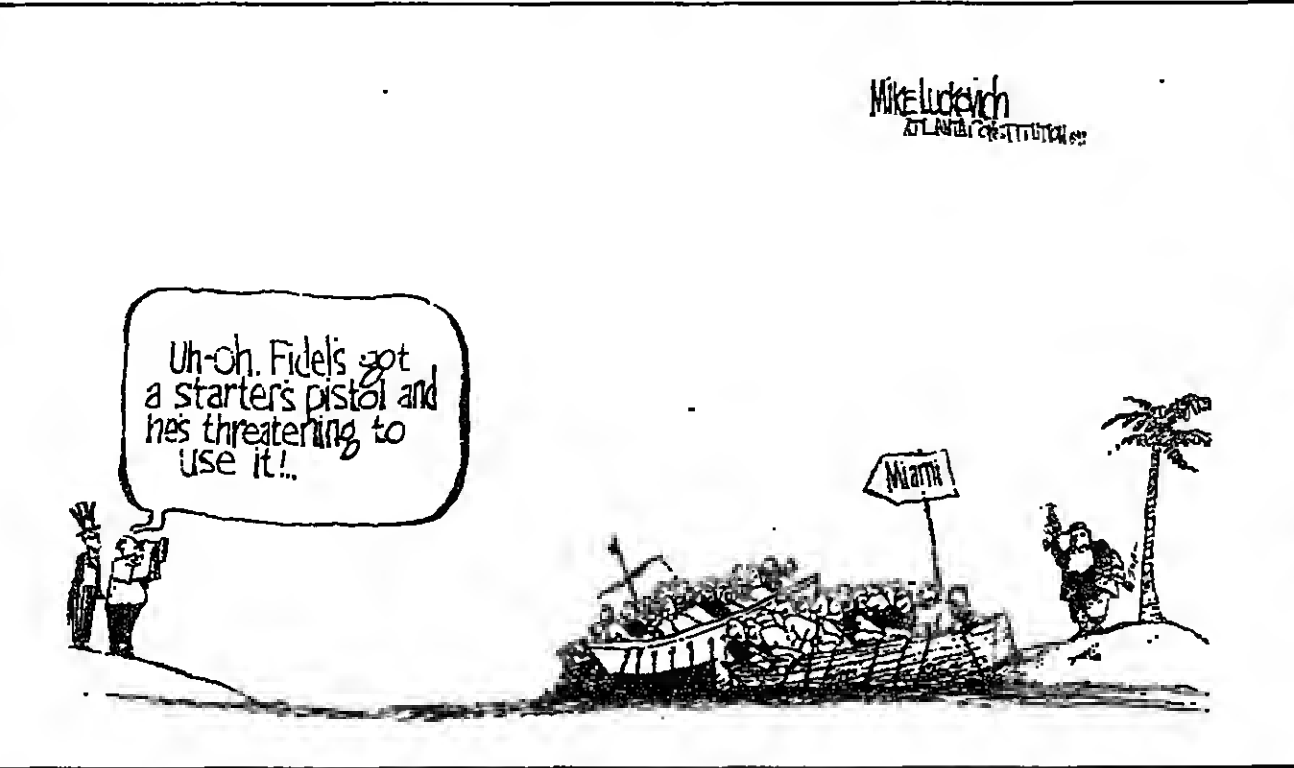
On the other hand, however, there is the issue of lifting the secondary and tertiary boycotts. The former deals with

companies with direct links with Israel, using Israeli components in their products or having Israeli capital and input in their operations. The latter applies to companies which are in essence used by firms under the secondary boycott to do business in the Arab World.

Given that Jordan and some other Arab countries are indeed in need of foreign investment and technical know-how, it is likely that many of them already have lifted the secondary and tertiary boycotts. This is something we understand, and it is an issue directly related to individual national interests. The contract being awarded to Motorola through a local Jordanian company to set up the Kingdom's first cellular phone system is an example where Jordan considered its national interests and decided that it was the best offer the Kingdom could get in all aspects, not only the financial side of the multi-million dollar deal.

We hope that those pressuring Jordan into ending the overall trade boycott of the state of Israel would take into consideration the basic fact that the Kingdom is not holding out for the sake of holding out. Our national interests and rights are at stake here, and we would not allow ourselves to be bullied into premature moves that would only undermine our interests, not to mention the political fallout that would inevitably follow such a move.

Jordan has not been adopting a tactic by affirming that economic projects on a bilateral basis with Israel could come only after the basic issues in the conflict were resolved. It was making a concession when it did open the tourist crossing in the south as part of the measures stipulated in the Washington Declaration. Hopefully, this position of Jordan would be understood, if not appreciated, by those applying pressure on the Kingdom.



THE WEEK IN PRINT

Population conference is a Western ploy to keep Third World weak

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

A COLUMNIST IN AL DUSTOUR, Hani Al Hindi said that the U.N. Conference in Cairo is nothing but a new attempt by the U.S. and other Western nations to stop the population growth in the Third World, which is considered as a major threat to Western interests. The conference was designed to make the Third World endorse abortion and curtail population growth, an objective which the colonialist powers had failed to achieve through creating regional wars among the Third World countries, said the writer.

He said that the Western world, which consumes 80 per cent of the world's resources, should not be allowed to achieve its end at the expense of the Third World countries.

His views were echoed by Suleiman Qubeilat, another Al Dustour columnist, who said that the idea of the conference is dangerous and sinister because it is the brain child of the Western countries, which continue the drive to ensure their domination of the Third World.

The writer said that the Western world had tried to stop population growth through sanctions against Third World countries and through fomenting enmity among them, leading to regional conflicts but the policy failed to achieve the desired end.

Ahmad Mislleh, a columnist in Al Ra'i said that it is natural for the scientists and politicians to think of ways to control population growth and prevent a population explosion for economic reasons.

But, he said, the policies exercised by the countries of the North against the nations of the South seem to be unacceptable morally and socially as well as politically at a time when the poor nations witness the Western world continually

pillaging their wealth. Shafiq Obeldat, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily, said that the countries of the Third should fully participate in the U.N. conference in Cairo, where they can present their ideas and voice their objection to the methods suggested by the West to curtail population.

It is true that the conference would discuss abortion, which is totally contradictory to Islamic beliefs, but the Muslim states along with other Third World nations ought to be there to voice their views and their objections and also refuse to condone any ideas that could infringe on their faith and principles and moral values, said the writer.

In the view of Saleh Qallab, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily, world Zionism was not to blame for the conference's idea, simply because it is Israel which stands to benefit from an increase in population. In fact, strong voices came out from Israel itself against the idea of the conference and abortion simply because the Israelis fear that the Palestinians will one day exceed in number than the Jewish population. It is true that ideas put forth by the U.N. contradict the Christian and Islamic principles and faith but, the writer said, these ideas could be debated through reason and nations can find acceptable solutions through dialogue.

Discussing the work of the Royal Commission for Reform and Development, a columnist in Al Ra'i said that reform can never be achieved through wishful thinking. It is not enough to hear the commission members expressing their good intentions and desires. We demand that they explain their steps and involve all sectors of society in their work and accept other parties' ideas in the reform

programme, said Sultan Al Hattab.

Admitting that only few people realise the nature or the task of the Royal Commission, the writer said that many of the current government decisions taken in various departments are unjustified and these too need to be examined by the commission.

Discussing the question of eradicating illiteracy in Jordan, Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that while the Ministry of Education is opening centres for adult education, one can see the number of dropouts from school increasing.

What is worse is to find that parents send their children to the streets to serve as street vendors or to beg passersby for money, thus defeating the purpose of education. The writer said that children under 10 years of age are often seen at traffic lights in the western parts of Amman trying to sell small items or begging the motorists for help and at the same time endangering their own lives by wandering among the passing cars.

The fact that large amounts of bad food are being found in stores and offered for sale means that the government-appointed inspectors charged with the task of monitoring the quality of food sold in the market are not doing their job, said Mohammad Subeifi, a columnist in Al Dustour. Furthermore, the merchants, who are found to be violating the law are not deterred by the somewhat leniency they are treated with, and so they tend to commit other and probably more serious violations, said the writer.

His views were backed by Nazi, a columnist in Al Ra'i, who said that seizing and destroying the contaminated food stuff is not

enough. There should be more measures to prevent the merchants from committing a crime against their community, said the writer. He suggested that closure of the stores and the destruction of bad food seized from the stores should be followed by imprisonment of the violators of the law so that the penalty can truly deter other merchants from continuing their criminal actions.

Discussing the Middle East peace process, Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in Al Dustour, said the Israeli government is constantly trying to impede a lasting settlement and is making it impossible for the Palestine National Authority (PNA) to handle its various tasks.

Furthermore, the Israelis have failed to set free the Palestinian detainees, blocked donor nations attempts to come to the aid of the local Palestinian authority and they refuse to discuss the return of the refugees. The writer said under these circumstances, it seems almost impossible for us to see peace looming in the horizon.

Since Jordan reached agreement with Israel to end the state of war, nothing has materialised on the ground to prove that the Israelis are willing to relent on such important questions as water and occupied Jordanian lands, said Taher Al Adwan.

The writer said the recent negotiations in the Dead Sea region and Washington have proved that the Israelis are not willing to budge from their adamant position and not willing to give back to Jordan what belongs to the country. Therefore, the writer called for a halt in any form of normalisation with the Jewish state until the latter responds to the Jordanian national demands.

China, Russia to be neither friends nor foes

By Oleg Shchedrov
Reuter

MOSCOW — Russia and China have pledged to build more stable ties, avoiding the shifts between political alliance and outright hostility that marked their relations in the past.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin came to Moscow to meet his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin and brush aside the remnants of decades of confrontation between the two countries. "Both parties reached an understanding of the necessity to build a new type of constructive partnership, which means neither confrontation nor political alliance," Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told a news conference on Sunday.

In the late 1950s, rivalry for supremacy in the Communist world turned Moscow and Beijing, once close political and military allies, into bitter foes and led the two countries to border clashes in the late 1960s.

Ties between Russia and China became less hostile only in the early 1980s and improved throughout the decade.

Mr. Jiang, who came to Moscow on Friday, was treated as a special guest. The Chinese leader was granted the rare privilege of staying in the Kremlin, traditionally the residence of all Russian rulers.

He was also invited to visit on Monday and Tuesday Yekaterinburg, Mr. Yeltsin's birthplace at the foot of the Ural Mountains.

During the visit top officials of the two countries signed a package of documents clearly aimed at fixing the new nature of their relations.

A political declaration, signed by Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Jiang, provided that neither country would pose a military threat to its neighbour including the promise not to use nuclear weapons first.

Mr. Jiang and Mr. Yeltsin also agreed to retarget nuclear missiles so that they would no longer be aimed

at the other's territory. The declaration pledged never again to allow ideology to obstruct bilateral relations and to stay out of any grouping that would endanger the security of the other.

The Chinese and Russian foreign ministers signed an agreement demarcating the western section of their 4,300-km long frontier, moving close to wiping out one of the main irritants in bilateral relations.

The border between Russia and China, drawn in deserted areas of Siberia and Central Asia between the 17th and 19th centuries, has never been properly detailed and agreed by both sides, causing problems every time the two countries entered another crisis in their relations.

In the 1960s China laid claim to vast territories of Russia and areas now belonging to the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

The claims were withdrawn as relations between the two countries improved, but both parties agreed the problem should have been solved once and for all.

Despite the fixing of the western sector of the frontier, the future of several small islands in the Ussuri and Argun rivers remain unresolved. But neither side appears too worried about the issue.

The links between Russia and China have expanded especially quickly over the last three years as the two countries played down their ideological differences.

The Kremlin, where a pragmatic search for a Russian approach to market economics has replaced pro-Western "liberal romanticism", is looking with nostalgia at Beijing's firm control over its economy and with envy at its economic success.

Mr. Jiang is scheduled to visit Ukraine and France next week.

Republicans seek control of Senate

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Republicans believe they can win big and president Bill Clinton's Democrats hope they will only lose small as campaigning for the Nov. 8 congressional elections moves into high gear.

America's Labour Day holiday is the traditional starting point for serious campaigning — but stakes are high this year and many candidates have been battling for months.

A sign in the lobby of the Republican senatorial campaign headquarters sounds the Grand Old Party (GOP) rallying cry: "think majority."

The Republicans need to win seven seats to take control of the Senate, which they lost in 1986. With 35 of the 100 seats up for grabs, their leaders believe that goal is within reach.

"The continuing deterioration of the Clinton presidency is the major factor," said Bill Harris, director of the Republican Senatorial Committee. "This is shaping up as a negative referendum on the Clinton presidency. There is the potential this could be a sea-change election."

Democrats know losing the Senate would be seen as a stinging rebuke for Mr. Clinton, the first Democratic president since 1981, and believe they can hang on. But they know they are fighting a powerful political tide.

"We're likely looking at a loss somewhere in the range of three to five Senate seats," said Gail Stoltz, political director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

That would leave formal control of the Senate with the Democrats but give effective control on many issues to Republicans in

alliance with conservative Democrats.

All 435 seats in the House of Representatives and 36 governors' jobs are also being contested on Nov. 8. Republicans need to win the 40 seats for a majority in the House, which has been controlled by Democrats since 1954.

That may be too tall an order so the focus remains on the Senate. Texas Senator Phil Gramm, who chairs the GOP Senatorial Election Committee, has said the Republicans could gain anywhere between three and 13 seats.

The party holding the White House traditionally loses ground in mid-term elections in which voters often express some of their frustrations with the sitting president.

What makes this year especially volatile is the large number of open Senate seats — nine — where the incumbent is not running. Incumbency traditionally confers a large advantage in fund raising and name recognition.

Six of the nine open seats are held by Democrats and the Republicans say they have a good chance of winning all nine.

"You have a very enthused and energised Republican Party looking forward to the campaign, whereas there's not much to get Democrats excited," said Gary Koops, communications director of the Republican Senatorial Committee.

Democrats agree low turnout could be a problem. "I would be concerned about energising the Democratic base. One problem we face is getting Democrats to the polls," he said Mr. Foley.

Features
Africa fights for sales at airshow

Cold war as dial on the 38th

Syria rejects

S. Africa fights for sales at airshow

By Paul Mylrea
Reuters

FARNBOROUGH, England — The South African Red Falcon has been sighted for the first time in the skies over the English countryside.

But avid birdwatchers can relax. This is not a rare migrant bird of prey but a versatile attack helicopter howling in head to head competition with U.S. and European aircraft makers to try to win a multi-billion dollar British defence contract.

The Rooivalk — Afrikaans for Red Falcon — is the star attraction brought by the South Africans to mark their first appearance of the biennial aerospace showcase, the Farnborough Air Show, on this week at an air base southwest of London.

Emerging from international isolation following all-race elections in April after four decades of apartheid rule, South Africa wants a share of the lucrative world aircraft market. Appearing at Farnborough is seen as a necessary step for the once highly secretive arms industry that equipped the country's defence forces during years of international sanctions in its bid to achieve international respectability and sales.

"It is a breakthrough," South African Defence Minister Joe Modise said during a two-day visit to the show.

"We have been out in the cold for far too long and this entry means a lot to us. It's giving us an equal opportunity to compete with the rest of the world," he said in an interview.

The election put President Nelson Mandela's black majority government in charge of an industry that is Africa's strongest but which was long vilified by its new political masters as a tool of apartheid.

The new government now resists calls for its abolition. "The defence in-

dustry is very important in the South African economy for the simple reason that nations who have the capacity to produce armaments spend so much time and resources on it. It is an industry that if properly driven could benefit (South Africa)," Mr. Modise said.

The Rooivalk, although late in the race for the British two billion pound attack helicopter contract, is catching its rivals, the McDonnell Douglas Longbow Apache, the Franco-German Eurocopter Tiger and the U.S. Textron Bell Cobra.

Johan Alberts, chief executive of Denel Corp, which makes the Rooivalk, said the show was an ideal showcase. "We get the opportunity to exhibit to the international world what are our capabilities," he said in an interview.

Under the slogan "from nowhere to a world player," the Denel stand groups 30 of the South Africa's aerospace firms.

Denel, which employs 14,000 people and has a turnover of more than \$700 million, was spun off from state arms procurement agency Armscor two years ago. In the last two years it paid \$33 million in dividends to its only shareholder, the South African government.

But South Africa has no illusions about the competition from U.S. defence giants like Lockheed Corp, which just announced a \$10 billion merger with Martin Marietta Corp, and from European groups squabbling over orders cut by the end of the cold war.

"We're looking for partners throughout the world. Britain is one of the countries we are focusing on. We don't want to overrate ourselves," Mr. Modise said.

"We think alone we won't be able to make it. We are under no illusions that if we do not find partners (we will lose) the possibility of sustaining the arms industry," he added.

Uzbek women in a post-Communist society

By Marfua Tokhatkhodzhaeva

WOMEN in the Central Asian republics, whether educated professionals or cotton pickers, are facing a range of serious social problems and challenges. These have often been misunderstood or deliberately distorted. Today the status of women in a society is rightly regarded as a key indicator of humanity and democracy, as well as of its level of economic development and political consciousness. The idea of female equality has universal meaning and is vital for the new states of Central Asia, where women's problems are still barely appreciated in ruling circles. The Communist ideology which prevailed for over 70 years tackled women's issues essentially as an economic problem, with women seen by the party merely as a complementary labour resource to be exploited.

Muslim Central Asia had remained a medieval-type society, backward and isolated from other Muslim lands which were changing and developing fast by the early 20th century. There was no class within its traditional Muslim society which was willing to give a lead against female segregation or to offer solid support for the idea of

female equality.

After the Russian revolution and Communist success in Central Asia, the state gradually moved to resolve the issue of women. Lenin thought that women should become involved in the economic life of a socialist country and be organised by Communist party committees and activists. Thus the first Soviet constitution in 1918 declared the full equality of political rights for women with men. But this was no more than rhetoric. In reality there began a new stage of colonisation, crueler and more destructive for the native Muslims than that of the Russian Tsars.

The real purpose of the Soviet empire was to preserve Central Asia as a cheap source of raw materials. Metropolitan Russia wanted more intensive exploitation of natural and labour resources at minimal expense. Cotton is the prime example. The huge growth in cotton production in the Soviet era could never have been achieved just by expanding irrigated areas of Uzbekistan and the fertile Fergana Valley. It needed many more hands to work in the cotton fields. These hands existed, but in the 1920s they belonged to their families because, according to Muslim law, women were prohibited from working outside

the home. Traditionally, a certain level of education existed for urban women of the middle class. But the education and status of most Muslim women was very low in Central Asia, especially in rural areas. Before men, they had only obligations.

The fiction of emancipation

The Soviet regime organised and promoted a policy of emancipation of Muslim women. By 1927 Soviet power had grown to a point in Central Asia that it could launch a campaign of onslaught (khoudjoum) against "feudal" practices, such as the veiling of women and fasting during Ramadan. The casting away of the veil and coming out of seclusion brought progress of a kind. Not voluntary but forced on most Muslim women, "emancipation" meant the opening of the door to the cotton fields for millions, and a way to modern European culture for just a small minority. In Stalin's totalitarian state, "women's liberation" was a fiction. The state policy aimed at making women units of the army of builders of the socialist state. Muslim women had to go out to the fields, factories or mills to survive. Nevertheless, new

economic conditions brought a change in psychology, and a certain independence began to develop among women.

Mass repression and arrests from 1928 of the urban intelligentsia of Central Asia left many families without their breadwinners. As a result, scores of thousands of women went out to work. While in 1925, women accounted for just 9 per cent of workers in Uzbekistan, this had increased to 28 per cent in 1993, and by 1940 had reached 39 per cent.

Many women took posts in government, as well as in universities and state institutions, especially in education, public health and science. But they failed to achieve equality with men because the prejudices of the past still flourished within the family.

Most Muslim women in Central Asia still have no right to choose their husbands, and they remain objects of exploitation and often humiliation. A woman cannot defend her economic interests, having no property of her own, just an inadequate salary. Within the intelligentsia, clever, well-educated, forceful women were produced, but they often found little sympathy or appreciation from their families and husbands.

Among the highly educated class, sharp tensions frequently led to unhappiness and divorce.

Many Uzbek men of today cannot imagine how a woman is in any sense equal to a man. Some are certain that a good education is actually bad for women. Many from the elite marry off their daughters at a very young age, and find brides for their sons who are minimally educated but have traditional ideas about a woman's duties.

The Soviet state gave us many beautiful slogans about the bright future ahead, but they proved empty. In reality life was very hard. But many traditional values survived, and, moreover, people did not want to change their culture and way of life based upon the spirit of Islam. Secularisation did not proceed far in Soviet Central Asian society.

The stagnation of Soviet society from the late 1970s was accompanied by the increasing influence of a party bureaucracy which abused its power. In Uzbekistan the "black economy" and associated mafia flourished, with various forms of corruption rampant. Many women also became involved in prostitution, narcotics, illegal speculation and

other rackets.

Move recently the influence of the rich party elite and black marketeers has increased over traditional society, and served to make it more conservative and more intolerant. There is also exploitation of religion by these same groups. The moral degradation of Western society is explained away as the result of the emancipation of women. It is argued that Uzbek men should improve things by restoring traditional customs and traditions, and in effect curbing further the independence of women, and perhaps limiting their rights to work.

With the appeal of democracy lacking any significant social base in Central Asia, and the collapse of Communism as an ideology, the cause of reviving so-called Muslim values is increasingly fashionable. In Uzbekistan it is being exploited by all opposition parties as well as by the government. In the current economic crisis and with worsening unemployment, it is women who have most to lose and women's progress which will surely suffer.

The writer is an architect at the Institute of Restoration in Tashkent. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

Emancipation helps Tunisia to steady growth

By Francis Ghlès

AMID ALL the controversy surrounding the United Nations Population Conference in Cairo, the example of one small Muslim country, Tunisia, traditionally tolerant and open to Western influence, suggests the emancipation of women has been a significant factor in reducing population growth from 3.2 per cent a generation ago to 1.9 today. Vastly improved standards of education and health care are other ingredients which explain Tunisia's steady economic performance in recent years. Real growth has averaged 5 per cent a year since 1989 and inflation is running at a little over 3 per cent. Over two-thirds of all house-

holds own or are buying a house or apartment.

The successful implementation of a structural readjustment programme has, since 1987, won plaudits from both the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, and contributed to the resilience of the economy in overcoming the impact of the Gulf war and, last winter, a severe drought.

The tourist sector is attracting 2.5m Europeans this year and contributing an estimated \$1.2bn to exports of goods and services.

Most striking is the coherence of the "Personal Status Code," promulgated by former president Habib Bourguiba in 1956, the year Tunisia gained independence

from France, which abolished polygamy and established all the laws governing family planning, divorce and the education of women which have given Tunisian women rights not enjoyed elsewhere in the Arab World.

In 1963, free prescriptions of the pill and free confidential advice on contraception were made available to women. 10 years before France. The programme spread to even the smallest village. The birth rate has declined from 45 to 34.4 per 1,000, mortality from 15 to 6.1 per 1,000. Illiteracy has been cut from 87.7 to 35 per cent, though the figure is higher among women in poorer areas.

Women are increasingly

visible in teaching, medicine and architecture, in factories as workers, engineers and owners. The world of politics remains very much a man's world, although the professional skills and sureness of touch which Neziha Mezhoud, minister in charge of family issues, and a growing number of other highly-articulate women bring to their jobs, suggests it is only a matter of years before senior cabinet posts will go to women.

Though leaders of the opposition Islamic Al Nahda (Renaissance) party have said they would accept many of Mr. Bourguiba's policies, women are mindful of the often violent record of some supporters of the party, not-

ably the throwing of acid in the faces of university students on the campus in Tunis. Many Tunisian women are convinced radical Islam is not sympathetic to the idea of equality between the sexes or to their presence in public places.

The laws on divorce and alimony are remarkably close to their European counterparts. Indirectly, they allow women a far greater share of inheritance than the (Holy) Koran allows. To bolster these moves, the books of people such as Hassan El Banna, the founder of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, have been withdrawn from schools and public libraries, and references to the inferior status of women

erased from all school books. Women today have 25 per cent of all jobs in Tunisia, 35 per cent of all jobs in industry 22 per cent in the growing services sector and 40 per cent in agriculture, where they manage 10 per cent of all farms. Ten per cent of all new companies are created by women.

The cycle of emancipation, education, public presence, most notably in the workplace, success in the professions and industry helps to explain why a country of such slender natural resources has progressed so much faster, not least economically, than many of its peers in the Middle East and Africa.

Financial Times.

It's cold war as usual on the 38th parallel

By Peter James Spielmann
The Associated Press

PANMUNJOM, Korea — First, North Korea's powerful propaganda loudspeakers, warm up with patriotic music. Then comes the message:

"America is the devil's playground they are imperialists" the voice booms, loudly enough to be heard across the demilitarised zone (DMZ) separating North Korea and South Korea and kilometres into the south.

Here, on the last front line of the cold war, electronic voices coax South Koreans northward to the "workers' paradise" and blare florid praises of the North's leader.

For 40 years, the loudspeakers, extolled the virtues of Kim Il Sung — one night, a U.S. military officer recalls, even broadcasting a "stupefying" six-hour speech by the "great leader."

Since Kim Il Sung's death July 8, they have hailed the all-surpassing "genius" of his son Kim Jong Il, the "dear leader."

Except for the change of Kims, the DMZ remains frozen in time, a cold war glacier that neither moves nor melts.

The propaganda rolls endlessly through the Panmunjom Valley, where an

ordinary Korean village once stood. It was wiped out during the war of 1950-53.

Panmunjom is now the "Truce Village" an eerie enclave divided in two and administered by the Military Armistice Commission of Officers from the United States, South Korea, some other U.N. members, North Korea and China.

A line also bisects the green felt-covered table at which the commission members met until March 1991, when the North stopped attending because a South Korean officer began representing the U.N. side.

Tour groups come to the Truce Village, walk around the table in the central building, take pictures of it and are allowed to venture a few steps into the northern half of Panmunjom.

Curious North Korean officers sometimes stroll down from their headquarters 100 metres away and peer through the windows of the main building at the visitors.

American soldiers, on U.N. duty at the southern corners of each building, keep themselves half-concealed in case someone starts shooting. It has happened.

On the surrounding hills, guards from each side sit in towers, watching the vi-

sors and each other through high-powered field glasses.

Orwellian doublespeak abounds: "A 'sunken peace garden' on the southern side, described as perfect for meditation, also provided cover for North Korean soldiers who crossed the border 10 years ago in pursuit of a Soviet citizen who defected from a tour group."

The 4-kilometre-wide "demilitarised zone" is the most heavily armed front line in the world, with about a million soldiers posted along its 242 kilometres. Since 1967, dozens of truce violations there and in waters offshore have cost the lives of 61 U.S. soldiers, 257 South Koreans and at least 355 North Koreans.

"Peace" is frequently invoked, but there is no peace treaty between the Koreans, only an armistice that has held since 1953.

In the DMZ, weapons of war, barbed wire, fences, minefields and guardposts still scar the green hills.

A white crane glides down from the powder-blue sky and settles among the emerald stalks of a lush rice paddy.

The paddy is ringed with barbed wire. Up in the hills, the loudspeakers blare their bellicose message: "Down with U.S. imperialism Yankees go home."

Syria rejects Israeli plan

(Continued from page 1)

during the three years "if possible". However he did not explain what he meant by "marginal".

During the 36 months Israel would "test" security arrangements as well as an early warning system and U.S. involvement in monitoring.

Mr. Rabin said the final scale of the withdrawal from the strategic plateau, announced in 1991, would be

open to negotiation and stressed he had made no commitment to Damascus, which had not agreed to the plan.

Some 13,000 Israelis have settled on the Heights, which were annexed de facto in 1981.

Also Friday a Lebanese source said that Syria was not proposing a joint Syrian-Lebanese delegation for peace talks with Israel despite earlier reports that it

would accept a joint team.

He said the reports were a misunderstanding of remarks by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Damascus in July.

Lebanese foreign ministry sources said in July Mr. Assad told Mr. Christopher that Syria was ready to form a joint delegation with Lebanon and had no objection to it being headed by a Lebanese.

Adams seeks to harvest Sinn Fein's 'historic day'

By Andrew Hill
Reuters

DUBLIN — With two Irish words and a few dozen steps, Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has rewritten Irish history and knocked at the door of recognition by Britain.

Before he entered Dublin's ornate government buildings on Tuesday to meet Prime Minister Albert Reynolds for the first time, Mr. Adams turned to a handful of supporters and said simply: "La stairiul."

It means "historic day" in Irish. It was an understatement he chose to deliver in the language Britain banned to reinforce Ireland's once-colonial status.

Mr. Adams' brief walk up the steps of Leinster House ended decades in the political wilderness for a party whose sole reason for existence is to reverse the partition of Northern Ireland from the Irish Republic.

It happened six days after the Irish Republican Army (IRA), Sinn Fein's guerrilla supporters, announced a "complete cessation" of its 25-year war to sweep aside British rule of the province.

No Irish government has ever dealt with Sinn Fein, which refuses to accept the partition on which the foundation of modern Ireland was built.

The Irish constitution lays claim to Northern Ireland but successive administrations have tacitly accepted the borders drawn when Britain granted Ireland home rule and set up an enclave for its Protestant majority in the north.

Tuesday's talks foreshadowed a day when Britain put the past behind it and recognises Sinn Fein in the same way that it was forced to recognise anti-colonial rulers in Kenya, India, Cyprus and elsewhere, Sinn Fein says.

Britain is withholding recognition of Sinn Fein until it is assured that the



Gerry Adams

IRA war is over for ever. For Ireland, Mr. Adams' assurances were enough to make him the first Sinn Fein leader in Ireland's 71-year history to talk to an Irish leader.

The redrawing of history's borders he seeks will be a formidable task given Britain's insistence that such a step can only happen when the majority in Northern Ireland, which is Protestant, pro-British and conservative, wants it.

But entry into the political mainstream — whether Britain recognises his party

or not — gives Sinn Fein (Ourselves Alone) a legitimacy it has never known and a place on the international stage to press its case.

Irish and Sinn Fein officials said it would put pressure on a reluctant British government to recognise Sinn Fein and admit it to fresh talks on the province which Dublin and London are hoping to launch in October this year.

To do otherwise would shatter the united front the

Irish and British governments have presented on Northern Ireland since a landmark 1985 Anglo-Irish agreement, they said.

This gave the Dublin government a say in the shaping of Northern Ireland's future and was the springboard for last December's Anglo-Irish Downing Street Declaration, a joint peace plan which seeks first of all to end violence.

The British government is expected to wait for up to three months to verify that the IRA ceasefire is perma-

nent before making any moves to welcome Sinn Fein.

This will ease the fears of Protestants in Northern Ireland and increase pressure on gunmen of their self-styled extremist "protectors" to lay down their weapons as well.

British officials say that Sinn Fein has hitherto won only 10 per cent of votes in the province's elections and that the publicity it has reaped in recent weeks is out of all proportion to its real power at the ballot box.

Sinn Fein supporters who travelled with Mr. Adams from Belfast knew they were watching history. They scrambled to take photographs of each other as Mr. Adams mounted the steps.

Ironically, television reporters who broadcast to Britain brought with them from London or Belfast Irish actors to dub Mr. Adams' words because his voice is banned from British airwaves.

But his 90 minutes of glory with Mr. Reynolds will put pressure on Britain to accept Mr. Adams as an equal negotiating partner and to scrap legislation which muzzles him and prevents him travelling to London, Sinn Fein officials said.

Mr. Adams' invitation up the steps of Leinster House was an Irish matter because he was discussing a new body Mr. Reynolds wants to establish — the national forum for reconciliation and peace.

This is distinct from the all-party talks Britain and Ireland are committed to under their Downing Street Declaration and which will be launched in October.

Sinn Fein's participation, Britain says, depends upon whether the IRA ceasefire is permanent or not.

A wry smile flickered across Mr. Adams' bearded face as he fielded the same questions Britain asks. "We have made a good start. It is a great day.... It is a permanent start."

Japanese government signals end of recession

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Economic Planning Agency said Friday that the country's economy, which had been in a recession since 1992, is now showing signs of recovery. The agency said that the economy is "gradually recovering" and that the government is "cautiously optimistic" about the future. It also said that the government is "actively implementing" measures to stimulate the economy.

However, Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa told reporters after a cabinet meeting Friday that "rather than a move toward economic recovery, I would say bright spots are now getting in sight." Citing foreign exchange rates and weak capital spending, Finance Minister Masayoshi Takemura also remained cautious. "The economy is still recovering, and is in a delicate stage," he told a separate news conference. Shochiro Toyoda, chairman of Japan's top automaker Toyota Motor Corp., who also chairs Japan Federation of Economic Organizations, said in a statement the latest economic data meant the economy was "getting over the worst of it." "As for a manager, I still cannot feel there has actually been a recovery," Mr. Toyoda said. He urged the govern-

ment to be cautious and "actively implement appropriate measures, such as a measure to deal with the yen's appreciation." Hiroshi Saito, chairman of the world's largest steelmaker Nippon Steel Corp., who heads the Japan Iron and Steel Federation, said in a statement Friday: "We cannot necessarily be optimistic about the business environment surrounding the steel industry." "Private capital investment, which accounts for one-third of steel demand, is still not showing signs of recovery," Mr. Saito said. "It is likely to take a considerable time before companies make a fully-fledged recovery in their business performance." The report said the yen's appreciation was a "factor of concern."

BRUSSELS (AP) — European finance ministers will once again find themselves treading the rocky road to a single European currency when they meet on the banks of Lake Konstanz in Germany Saturday. Amid controversy over suggestions that a hard core of European Union (EU) countries should press ahead with closer integration, the ministers are to tackle an agenda covering preparation for the third and final phase of monetary union and the economic situation in Europe. It is now clear that the 12 members of the union, as a whole, are emerging from a recession during which they fell behind in efforts to reach the targets for economic convergence set by the Maastricht Treaty. The EU economy is expected to grow 2.0 per cent this year and by 2.5 per cent next year. During the past two years of economic contraction, EU finance ministers have been ambushed by falling tax receipts, growing unemploy-

ment and rising public deficits, as well as related pressure on foreign exchange markets which led to the collapse of the rigid limits of the exchange rate mechanism in August 1993. The recovery, and the control of inflation, have renewed the prospects for a single currency, but the overhang of public deficits and now a tendency for interest rates to rise are clouding the way forward. Under the Maastricht Treaty for economic and monetary union, the single currency is to be introduced in 1997 at the earliest and by 1999 at the latest. Britain has retained an option to decide whether or not to adopt a single currency. British Prime Minister John Major this week reiterated his belief that EU members should be able to advance

at their own speed on each element of union policy, rejecting a suggestion by German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's political party that a hard core of countries — namely Germany, France and the Benelux states — should advance alone. French President Francois Mitterrand has rejected the idea but his conservative prime minister, Edouard Balladur, has taken a more nuanced approach. The administrative commission of the union, and Germany, which chairs ministerial meetings until the end of the year, have decided that the Maastricht Treaty must be applied to the letter. The treaty is based on strict criteria requiring member countries to make their economies converge by steps in the run-up to adopting a single currency.

For this reason the ministers, meeting at Lindau, are to discuss the so-called "excessive deficits" procedure by which the EU is able to apply pressure on states which are not reducing deficit and borrowings on schedule. Only Luxembourg and Ireland meet the convergence targets at this time. Before the end of the year, the other members should receive secret recommendations which, in principle are binding, on what action needs to be taken to bring their economies in line. The two most wayward countries are Greece and Italy. The treaty states that the budget deficits should be no greater than three per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) and the public debt no greater than 60 per cent of

GDP. Economic recovery should strengthen the financial position of members and enable Germany, France and the Netherlands, in particular to converge. However, there is concern that an increase in international long-term interest rates might discourage investment and weaken the recovery despite low levels of inflation. Alexandre Lamfalussy, president of the European Monetary Institute (EMI), the forerunner of the future European central bank, is expected to discuss rates at the weekend meeting, which will also be attended by the governors of EU central banks. The EU commissioner for finance, Henning Christophersen, has argued that interest rates are rising because European countries are emerging from recession with a high level of debt which, the markets hold, "must be financed or carried forward."

U.S. deficits should contribute to persistent dollar weakness in coming quarters

The following report, covering the period from Thursday Sept. 1, 1994 until Wednesday Sept. 7, 1994, is provided by Nasser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch — Dabai.

Overview

Fundamental View: Despite higher interest rates, the large current account and capital account deficits of the United States should contribute to persistent dollar weakness in coming quarters. Monetary easing in Germany and Japan is also drawing to a close, removing a possible source of support for the dollar. With signs of somewhat slower growth in the United States in recent months, Fed policy is likely to be on hold until November and further tightening could well be delayed until next year. We maintain our 12-month targets of DM/USD 1.50 and JPY/USD 95. **Technical View:** Despite the fact that the U.S. dollar index reached highs not seen since late July, it finished the week ended Sept. 2 on the downside with a net loss of 1.2 per cent. In fact, the greenback lost ground against each of the six major currencies that we regularly monitor. Sentiment has deteriorated somewhat, but is still viewed as near oversold. At the same time, short term momentum remains generally constructive, even as more medium term oscillators are oversold and bottoming. While a test of the July-August lows cannot be ruled out, there is a good likelihood that such a test would not be technically confirmed. Such a positive divergence would, in turn, strengthen the bottoming process relative to the post April downturn. Given that, in each of the past seven years, the dollar index recorded important price or momentum lows during the final four months of the year, the development of an important bottom in coming weeks would have an historical precedent. Nearby resistance exists at 90.50 and 91.75. Benchmark support exists at 86.65-87.40.

Japanese yen

Fundamental View: The dollar continues to trade with a bias against the yen in the JPY/USD 98-99 range, with much trading commentary focused on lack of progress of Japanese trade talks as a source of dollar weakness. With the U.S. threatening trade sanctions on Japan if progress is not made before a Sept. 30 deadline, the dollar remains vulnerable to capital flight by international investors concerned about potential trade war. On the other hand, we believe the dollar to receive a relatively little lasting benefit from trade sanctions as avoided, because large imbalances between trade and capital flows are unlikely to be resolved by trade negotiations. Japan's current account surplus is expected to remain close to \$130 billion this year, which is far greater than the apparent demand by Japanese investors for foreign securities. In the first seven months of this year, Japan's net long-term capital outflow has been a meager \$8 billion, even with a substantial pickup in outflows in recent months. Despite yen strength, our Tokyo economics unit has

recently revised up its forecast for Japanese growth and believes that monetary easing is over. In our view, persistent dollar weakness will be required to keep U.S. assets cheap in yen terms and thereby keep capital flowing from Japan. We maintain our forecast for the yen to reach JPY/USD 95 in 12-months time, with the risk being toward more pronounced dollar weakness.

Technical View: The Japanese yen gained 1.4 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Sept. 2 and closed at its high of the week. Sentiment is still viewed as neutral. However, short term momentum still has a generally downward bias, and with medium term attempting to peak as well, last week's strength may only serve to strengthen the topping process. The potential for an important upcoming correction still has to be respected. Benchmark support and resistance levels remain unchanged, with the latter near 97.20 Y/USD, then below 93; first support is at 100.40-101.40, with major support at 106-112.

Deutsche mark

Fundamental View: The dollar steadily dropped against the DM in recent days, falling to DM/USD 1.53-1.54 range. The negative response of the U.S. treasury market to U.S. employment data started the dollar decline. The DM received an additional boost from renewed discussion about a European monetary union. Data released showed German manufacturing posting better than expected numbers, while the unemployment rate dropped in both western and eastern Germany. That led to a general bullishness on the German economy and strengthening the DM against all major currencies. Prospects for the dollar against the DM in the coming quarters continue to be dim. Dollar weakness may spur some capital inflows into the U.S. since dollar assets are cheap, but the kind of massive capital inflows needed to offset the large trade deficit and buoy the dollar are not expected to materialise. This is because, on the demand side, U.S. faces increased competition for capital inflows from English-speaking countries and developing countries whose current account deficits have grown significantly. The DM should also benefit from greater confidence of the markets in the ability of the Bundesbank to fight inflation. We continue to look for the dollar to trade at the DM/USD 1.50 level in 12 months.

Technical View: The Deutschmark rallied 1.2 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week, and — like the yen — closed at its high of the week. Despite recent improvement, medium term sentiment is still overbought. Short term momentum maintained its downward bias during the week, but is showing signs of bottoming. Medium term oscillators have the opposite characteristics, i.e., the dominant uptrend is peaking. Nonetheless, the dominant uptrend from the February lows remains intact, and will likely require a decline in the currency through the 1.63-1.64 DM/USD range to reverse that trend; there is important intervening support at 1.575-

1.598. Strong resistance remains at 1.48-1.52. Against the yen, the D-mark rallied modestly last week, and short term momentum is attempting to turn up. Such a reversal would aid the medium term oscillators. Overall, however, the dominant 11-month old trading range continues to call the shots, with support at 59-60 and resistance in the areas of 65-66.

Pound sterling

Fundamental View: The British pound gained against the U.S. dollar and was up to U.S./GBP 1.55. The pound followed the dollar decline against the DM and was down to DM 2.39. Major data released indicated that the pace of industrial expansion was as expected. However, M0 (narrow measure of money supply) growth was lower than expected, reducing the chances of a rate hike at the monetary meeting on Sept. 7. While inflation numbers for August were very good, our estimates suggest that if the economy continues to grow a 3.0 and 3.5 per cent annual rate, there would be no slack in the economy by the end of 1995.

This raises the likelihood of an increase in interest rates later this year as a preemptive strike against overheating next year. This combined with a cut in the German discount rate expected after the October elections should move the U.K.-German interest rate differential in favour of the pound. With the DM expected to strengthen against the U.S., and the pound to strengthen against the DM, we expect the pound will appreciate to 1.60 U.S. in six to twelve months time.

Technical View: The British pound advanced 1.1 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Sept. 2. Sentiment is overbought and the currency continues to fluctuate within its long term trading range. Short term momentum only reached neutral readings, but does appear to be bottoming. At the same time, medium term oscillators appear to have peaked. This configuration suggests that any currency rally is not likely to be long-lived.

Resistance remains at \$1.586 U.S./£ for the time being. First support exists near \$1.51; the lower end of the trading range at \$1.46 is second support. Despite testing resistance earlier in the week, the DM cross pulled back to close down. Nonetheless, medium term indicators appear to be bottoming. Resistance remains at 2.43-2.45, with support at 2.37-2.38 and 2.32-2.33.

Swiss franc

Fundamental View: The Swiss franc rallied on the back of dollar weakness to SF/USD 1.29 from SF/USD 1.33 last week. The franc is also trading higher against the Deutschmark, currently at SF/DM 0.862, a new high. We continue to expect the franc to appreciate further against the dollar in the next six months to SF/USD 1.26, but expect it to remain in the 1994 trading range of SF/DM 0.84 against the mark. The Swiss recovery appears to be gaining momentum and

we expect real GDP growth to be 1.5 per cent for 1994 and 2.4 per cent in 1995. Consumer price inflation, meanwhile, is expected to remain low. For August, consumer prices were up a scant 0.5 per cent from a year ago. For 1994, we expect consumer prices to be up 1.3 per cent. The Swiss franc should continue to benefit from this low inflation environment and the ongoing efforts to reduce the budget deficit.

Technical View: The Swiss franc gained 1.9 per cent versus the greenback during the week ended Sept. 2 and was the strongest currency among the six we most regularly discuss. Sentiment remains overbought. The late-week upside reversal did allow short term momentum to firm up, but overbought medium term momentum still appears to be peaking. Resistance remains at 1.23-1.26 SF/USD, with support at 1.355-1.39.

The DM cross tested support last week, but remains in its trading 1994 range, medium term oscillators remain under pressure (although there are signs of bottoming). As long as that condition exists, any nearby rally should be monitored closely. Support is at 834-838; resistance exists above 850.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1994
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A good day and evening to make changes in your plans so that you will be able to expand in different directions than you have been considering, especially where taking a trip is concerned.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) A good day to concentrate on the ideas which keep you from off the beaten path. Steer clear of woe. Try not to argue with your mate.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be more thoughtful of those around you and this can become a more pleasant day for you and those you are associated with.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take no risks where higher-ups are concerned. You feel there is much which can be accomplished in the outside world. Drive with care.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You want to make new plans but be sure you have all the information you need before doing so or there could be problems.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is a good day to analyse where you stand financially, so concentrate on the practical. Don't make unwise remarks where your mate is concerned.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Give an associate a helping hand even though it may cause you a little inconvenience. Don't make a big deal of something unpleasant.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You need to get more order into your environment; stop procrastinating about this. Pay little attention to a bothersome associate.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You may find it difficult to reveal our recreational plans for the evening, but be persistent. Show your mate you're truly devoted.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Take time to placate a disturbed member of your family and show you are devoted. Do some necessary shopping for your loved ones.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Care in driving is most important today when others are apt to be quite reckless. Don't criticise a friend. Control your temper.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) If you spend lavishly today, you can soon regret it. Get your property improved and increase its value. Don't get taken in by profiteers.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be more objective and you can get along much better when dealing with others. Stop feeling sorry for yourself. Update your wardrobe.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

By Glasbergen

That's how I keep in shape, Stanley... I make you bigger so I look smaller!

JUMBLE

Unscramble these five jumble words to form a sentence. Use the letters in the words to form the sentence.

HUSBY
TEPIN
LORFIC
GININN

Now arrange the circled letters to form the sentence. Use the letters in the words to form the sentence.

Answer: What the musicians often called their breakfast — A JAM SESSION

Peanuts

PLUNK!

Andy Capp

YOU DARE!!

Mutt'n'Jeff

YECH! A FLY JUST FLEW DOWN MY THROAT.

OPEN WIDE, MUTT!

THE Daily Crossword by William Canby

ACROSS

- 1 Jam-packed
- 2 Sweetheart
- 3 Conspiratorial
- 4 Hawaiian port
- 5 Winged
- 6 Curious neighbor
- 7 English river
- 8 Novel
- 9 Airplane
- 10 With aplomb
- 11 Partner
- 12 Upright
- 13 Stripped
- 14 Artistic movement
- 15 Sentimental writer
- 16 Upright
- 17 Thoroughly
- 18 Supporters
- 19 Likely to Ozone
- 20 Vedic work
- 21 Guiltless
- 22 Allusion
- 23 Activity
- 24 Place
- 25 Word of annoyance
- 26 Windy City pro
- 27 Explorer
- 28 Security for a loan
- 29 Verbal
- 30 Ver
- 31 Carriage-on
- 32 Throw off course
- 33 Plover
- 34 State of equilibrium
- 35 Adagio or allegro
- 36 Bonehead
- 37 Guile
- 38 Platform
- 39 Counterpoint
- 40 Bar
- 41 River to the sea
- 42 Gaudy
- 43 Ordered
- 44 Hold back
- 45 For the most part
- 46 Denier
- 47 Expanded
- 48 Approves
- 49 City on the Missouri
- 50 Half-of-Panama Road
- 51 Unusual, old style
- 52 Penicillin
- 53 Cruise
- 54 Whetstone
- 55 Arm bone
- 56 Bear
- 57 Precious
- 58 French
- 59 Soap
- 60 Bra

DOWN

- 1 Safe
- 2 Pin
- 3 Isolated
- 4 Gambling game
- 5 Twisted
- 6 Spaced
- 7 Braid
- 8 Sound from
- 9 Cation
- 10 Jacob's vessel
- 11 Windy City pro
- 12 Explorer
- 13 Security for a loan
- 14 Verbal
- 15 Carriage-on
- 16 Throw off course
- 17 Plover
- 18 State of equilibrium
- 19 Adagio or allegro
- 20 Bonehead
- 21 Guile
- 22 Platform
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- 39 Arm bone
- 40 Bear
- 41 Precious
- 42 French
- 43 Soap
- 44 Bra

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Financial Markets

Jordan Times
in co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Mar 9/94	Tokyo Close Mar 9/94
Sterling Pound	1.5445	1.5461
Deutsche Mark	1.5505	1.5474
Swiss Franc	1.2930	1.2935
French Franc	5.3140	5.3132**
Japanese Yen	99.45	99.24
European Currency Unit	1.2250	1.2275**

1SD Per 100
European Opening at 9:00 a.m. (GMT)

Forex Interest Rates
Date: 8/9/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	4.82	4.75	5.06	5.56
Sterling Pound	4.87	5.31	5.75	6.37
Deutsche Mark	4.75	4.75	4.95	5.25
Swiss Franc	3.87	4.00	4.25	4.56
French Franc	8.57	5.50	5.81	6.25
Japanese Yen	2.31	2.18	2.25	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.62	5.81	6.12	6.68

Interest bid rates for amounts exceeding 1.0 million dollars or equivalent

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 8/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6960	0.6980
Sterling Pound	1.0746	1.0800
Deutsche Mark	0.4488	0.4510
Swiss Franc	0.5363	0.5390
French Franc	0.1310	0.1317
Japanese Yen	0.7003	0.7036
Dutch Guilder	0.4023	0.4033
Swedish Krona	0.0442	0.0444
Italian Lira	0.0442	0.0444
Belgian Franc	0.0442	0.0444

* Per 100

Other Currencies
Date: 8/9/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8310	1.8430
Lebanese Lira	0.040665	0.042030
Saudi Riyal	0.1855	0.1862
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3150	2.3860
Qatari Riyal	0.1900	0.1913
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Rial	1.7880	1.8040
UAE Dirham	0.1889	0.1905
Greek Drachma	0.2410	0.2490
Cypriot Pound	1.4015	1.5050

* Per 100

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OMANIZED MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (02/09/1994 - 07/09/1994)

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PRV. CLOSING PRICE	OFFER CLOSING PRICE
ABAS BANK	156,480	183.000	183.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	139,391	3.890	3.700
SAKE OF JORDAN	15,370	4.900	4.830
KHUSHA EAST INVESTMENT BANK	29,121	1.310	1.200
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	89,747	3.800	3.700
THE JORDANIAN BANK	44,111	5.000	5.100
JORDAN POSTAL BANK	18,888	3.810	3.800
JORDAN OIL BANK	130,784	1.110	1.130
ABAS JORDAN INVESTMENT BANK	3,240	3.000	3.000
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	248,181	3.440	3.500
UNION BANK FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	5,335	5.200	5.200
WESTERN BANK	41,500	3.800	3.800
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	5,428	3.100	3.100
WEST JORDAN INVESTMENT FOR HOLDING	8,024	3.500	3.500
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	571,363	1.430	1.470
ABAS BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	3,130	3.800	3.800
PELAGOS/PELAGOS INVESTMENT BANK	137,153	1.800	1.810
JORDAN INSURANCE	11,500	3.500	3.500
JORDAN FRANCHISE INVESTMENT	47,981	3.710	3.600
JORDAN OIL BANK	11,000	4.400	4.400
ABAS LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	4,810	3.800	3.700
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	72,023	1.600	1.400
BEAR INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	4,117	5.400	5.400
JORDAN NATIONAL HOTELS	300,823	3.500	3.400
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	15,010	2.300	2.300
JORDAN OIL BANK	15,750	3.800	3.800
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	340	1.230	1.200
JORDAN PRESS PUBLICATION / ALBA	1,189,183	12.000	11.400
UNITED JORDAN BANK & COMMERCIAL	323,994	3.230	3.100
ABAS BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	15,750	3.800	3.800
JORDANIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT HOLDING	7,640	1.430	1.430
ATTACHED COMST. MATERIALS MANUFACTURING	274,238	3.700	3.700
JORDAN PROPERTY HOLDING	8,463	3.800	3.800
JORDAN FREEDOM INVESTMENT	99,483	3.350	3.400
JORDAN SHAWING	1,143	3.700	3.700
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	16,708	3.600	3.600
THE JORDANIAN HOTELS	100,130	3.800	3.800
JORDAN PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	151,583	4.870	4.800
JORDAN CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	10,380	4.250	4.250
THE PUBLIC BANKING	775	3.100	3.100
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	1,780	17.000	17.000
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	21,783	3.700	3.700
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	38,555	3.700	3.700
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	400,244	10.000	10.000
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	50,284	1.130	1.130
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	107,723	1.500	1.400
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	14,863	3.500	3.500
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	51,750	4.150	4.150
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	14,673	3.800	3.800
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	1,244	5.400	5.400
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	34,115	1.730	1.730
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	4,548	3.300	3.300
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	14,440	5.000	5.000
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	50,534	0.840	0.840
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	37,088	1.500	1.500
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	21,000	3.700	3.700
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	58,054	3.500	3.500
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	48,307	2.170	2.170
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	230,880	3.400	3.400
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	14,121	2.270	2.270
ABAS CHROMIC INDUSTRIES	155,834	2.200	2.200
GRAND TOTAL	1,208,448		

PARALLEL MARKET TRADING ACTIVITY FOR THE PERIOD (02/09/1994 - 07/09/1994)

WEEKLY REPORT

COMPANY NAME	TRADING VOLUME	PRV. CLOSING PRICE	OFFER CLOSING PRICE
CENTRAL GENERAL TRADING & STORAGE	17,023	4.800	4.800
JORDAN TRADING FACILITIES	127,720	5.700	5.600
KHUSHA EAST FOR OIL & CRUDE CO.	155	0.620	0.620
SABER PRIVATE DEVELOPMENT	4,527	1.010	1.010
ABAS FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPPLIES	1,170	1.100	1.100
NATIONAL CHROMIC INDUSTRIES CO. LTD	244,485	2.170	2.170
NATIONAL TEXTILE & PLASTICS LTD. CO	35,000	1.500	1.500
JORDAN NEW CABLE CONSTRUCTION	100,000	2.170	2.170
NATIONAL MULTIPLE INDUSTRIES	274,238	1.410	1.410
AL-BAY HADRAH MANUFACTURING CO.	42,772	2.270	2.270
INTERNATIONAL TRADING & CHROMIC	184,197	1.400	1.400
UNIVERSAL MEDICAL LTD.	14,121	2.270	2.270
UNION CHROMIC & PETROLEUM OIL INDUSTRIES	155,834	2.200	2.200
GRAND TOTAL	1,208,448		

Oxfam turns sights on poor in Britain

LONDON (R) — Oxfam, the charity which fights starvation in developing countries, is considering a plan to combat poverty at home in Britain.

A spokeswoman said the move was inspired by increasing levels of poverty in Britain.

"We get comments from people who are working with abroad who have heard about problems in Britain and ask what we are doing about it," she said.

The British government maintains that poverty has been falling in Britain.

However, the independent Institute for Fiscal Studies said in a recent report that while most Britons became more prosperous in the decade, the poorest 10 per cent suffered an average three pounds (\$4.7) a week drop in income.

Saudis say state partner not needed in petrochemicals

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Industry Minister Abdul Aziz Al Zamel has made it clear his government will not insist on taking a share in major petrochemical ventures in the kingdom, as its policy had been assumed to be.

His statement expanded and reinforced a Saudi cabinet declaration inviting local and foreign private petrochemical investment.

The cabinet statement had not specifically stated that it was not a prerequisite that the government-run Saudi Arabian Basic Industries Corp (SABIC) or the state oil firm Saudi Aramco take part.

But Sheikh Zamel, asked if petrochemical plants could be built without the participation of these firms, said: "There is no objection," adding the proviso that the companies must buy their raw materials locally where available.

Sheikh Zamel, quoted by

the official Saudi Press Agency said however that many investors ask SABIC to join their projects.

In August 1993 the cabinet vetoed an \$850 million plan by Mobil Corp to build an MTBE (methyl tertiary butyl ether) plant in conjunction with a private group led by Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer's son Loay.

No reasons were given other than the need to establish a policy governing petrochemical investments, but the measure effectively froze various other petrochemical projects.

Sheikh Zamel said he welcomed any venture and his ministry was ready to study its feasibility. For large projects, he said the government was inclined to encourage them to offer shares to Saudis once they are up and running.

SABIC has carved out a

five per cent share of the world petrochemical market with a complex web of plants in the purpose-built industrial cities of Jubail on the Gulf and Yanbu on the Red Sea.

Sheikh Zamel said SABIC would continue to be active in making petrochemical investments through new projects and expanding existing projects.

The clearer policy of openness appeared to have direct bearing on plans by Chevron Corp and a private Saudi group to make benzene and cyclohexane, industrial building blocks, estimated by outsiders to cost \$500 million.

In addition, the local Xel Industries has plans that could cost \$400 million to build a propylene and polypropylene plant with Himont, a U.S. subsidiary of Italy's Montedison SPA.

The local Alujain Corp also wants to build an MTBE plant.

Funds become driving force in U.S. oil price moves

NEW YORK (R) — When it comes to oil prices, supply, demand and even OPEC often take a back seat to a new force in the market — managed account funds.

Explosive growth in commodity and equity funds and

ever more complex futures products, industry sources said, are the force behind investment funds' growing role in influencing oil prices since the Gulf war.

While news like the oil workers' strike in Nigeria or

fundamentals such as OPEC's production levels can dictate daily moves or longer-term trends, pools of speculative money in the managed account funds, many of them based in the United States, can dominate markets for weeks.

Traders pointed out that crude oil prices, which rose this year from about \$13 to \$19.40 a barrel for North Sea Brent, were falling even as the strike in Nigeria, a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, was cutting the country's output.

The opposite phenomenon happened in March. Many market analysts expected crude to fall to \$10 a barrel when OPEC decided to maintain its output ceiling of 24.52 million barrels a day heading into a seasonally weak demand period. Instead, futures started on a four-month bull market.

"(Oil) is a perfect invest-

ment vehicle for the funds... they're increasingly becoming a more powerful force," said Andy Lebow, energy futures specialist at E.D.F. Man. "If you're a commodity fund, you have to be in oil."

Interest rates, inflation and so called technical factors influence the fund's actions.

The latest rise in U.S. interest rates encouraged some funds to sell their crude oil futures on the view that inflation was under control and their money could be parked in higher-yielding investments.

Fund managers also look at their "charts" or graphs of price movements and base trading decisions on how recent price action could determine future direction.

The fund's clout does not always please the oil industry, whose earnings depend on selling and refining crude oil to make gasoline and diesel fuel rather than on trading in futures.

Industry executives have complained for years about the "Wall Street refiners" who trade in oil futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX).

"It's a market that's manipulated and it's a market that's not real," argued one long-time spot market oil trader in Houston. "It hurts the refiners, it hurts the producers, it hurts the industry and ultimately it hurts the consumer."

"The funds are the players," he said.

The Houston trader pointed out that the funds trade contracts that far exceed actual supply and demand in the United States.

The United States pumps about 6.5 to 7.5 million barrels of oil a day and imports about that much crude to meet total U.S. consumption of about 14 million barrels a day.

On the NYMEX, some 100,000 crude oil contracts are traded every day — the equivalent of 100 million barrels or more than seven times the daily consumption of oil in the United States and four times OPEC's total daily production of nearly 25 million barrels.

IBM to cut 3,000 workers

NEW YORK (AFP) — Computer giant IBM announced Friday 3,000 cuts to its U.S. workforce in the coming weeks, in particular to its commercial division.

The commercial division, which had 100,000 workers in 1986 before voluntary cuts early retirements, presently employs 43,000 people.

The latest round should trim the total number of IBM employees to the company's goal of 215,000 by the end of this year. In 1986, the company had 250,000 workers.

The restructuring efforts, in conjunction with the introduction of new models, appears to have brought results. For the first six months of 1994 IBM posted a net profit of \$1 billion. The year before it posted a net loss of \$372 million. Sales increased four per cent to \$28.7 billion for the first half of 1993.

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WORLD SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Kasvio, Perkins in line for golden battle

ROME (R) — Finland's Antti Kasvio sounded a determined challenge for his second World Swimming Championships title with the fastest qualifying time for the men's 400 metres freestyle final Friday.

Double European champion Kasvio, gold medalist in Monday's 200 freestyle, won his heat in three minutes 51.04 seconds, 0.03 seconds ahead of 200 bronze medalist Danny Loader of New Zealand.

But Commonwealth champion Kieren Perkins, Australia's Olympic silver medalist, made clear he would have a big say in the evening's final by winning his heat in 3:51.75.

Defending champion Joerg Hoffmann of Germany also secured a final place but Olympic bronze medalist Andreas Holmertz of Sweden, who took silver behind Kasvio in the 200, managed only ninth overall and failed to qualify.

Australia's Samantha Riley made an excellent start to her bid for a second breaststroke gold medal with the top qualifying time for the women's 100 metres final.

Riley, winner of Tuesday's

200 event, clocked 1:09.37, with South Africa's Penny Heyns and Monday's 400 metres individual medley champion Dai Guohong of China the only other swimmers under 1:10. Heyns bettered her own African record by 0.18 seconds in 1:09.79.

Elena Rudkovskaya of Belarus, no longer the force she was when she won the 1992 Olympic title in Barcelona, failed to qualify.

Germany's Jana Doerries and Australia's Rebecca Brown, respectively world and Commonwealth silver medalists, were also eliminated.

Japan's Akira Hayashi led qualifiers for the men's 200 metres breaststroke final, though he did the same for Monday's 100 and had to settle for fifth in the final, 0.02 seconds away from the bronze medal.

Hungary's Norbert Rozsa and Karoly Guttler, gold and silver medalists in the 100 breaststroke, also qualified comfortably and there was a place in the final for Britain's Nick Gillingham, the European and Commonwealth champion.

The major casualty was

Australia's Phil Rogers, Commonwealth silver medalist who had been pipped by 0.01 second for the 100 bronze by Belgium's Frederic Deburghgraeve, another non-qualifier in the 200.

Australians Susan O'Neill and Petria Thomas looked best placed to challenge a Chinese one-two in the women's 100 butterfly.

Liu Limin, beaten for last December's world short-course championship gold by O'Neill, led the qualifiers in 1:00.11, with O'Neill, China's Qu Yun and Commonwealth champion Thomas next quickest.

Franziska van Almsick, who won Tuesday's 200 freestyle in world-record time after German teammate Dagmar Hase gave up her own place in the final, made the 100 butterfly on her own merits — but only just.

European silver medalist van Almsick, who was ninth and failed to qualify for right for the 200 freestyle final, secured the eighth and last place in the 100 butterfly in 1:01.49 — just 0.04 seconds ahead of American Amy van Dyken.



Russia's Dmitry Santin performs a forward 3 1/2 somersault during men's 10m final at the World Swimming Championships in Rome Thursday. Santin won the title ahead of China's Sun Shouei and Vladimir Timoshinin (AFP photo)

Championships in Rome Thursday. Santin won the title ahead of China's Sun Shouei and Vladimir Timoshinin (AFP photo)

Japan stuck in the middle over Asiad invitation to Taiwan president

TOKYO (AFP) — Three weeks before the Asiad Games open in Hiroshima, Japan finds itself in a diplomatic quandary over an invitation to Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui that has angered China.

Obviously a sporting event, the October 2-16 games have become a public arena for the two Chinese rivals, causing growing embarrassment for Tokyo and its fragile ruling coalition government.

Lee said Wednesday that he would take up the invitation extended to him by the president of the Olympic Committee of Asia, Sheikh Ahmad Al Fakhri, to attend the games' opening.

China, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province, has threatened to boycott the games if Lee turns up in Hiroshima.

"Against its will, the Japanese government finds itself in a very embarrassing situation," said Mitsuaki Nakajima, director of the foreign affairs institute at Tokyo Languages University.

"For a long time Japan totally neglected the question of Taiwan while the island's economic influence grew rapidly, boosting its international status," he said. "Today, we are taken by surprise and we pay the price."

A delegation of six Taiwan legislators met Friday with officials of major Japanese parties to plead in favour of Lee's visit, while some Japanese legislators have criticised what they see as Tokyo cowering before Beijing.

"Japan cowers before China just like a mouse does before a cat," said parliamentarian Motoko Shima. "This type of relationship has to change."

Japan recognised communist China in 1972 after cutting diplomatic links with Taiwan.

Broadway Flyer may atone for Derby flop

LONDON (R) — Broadway Flyer, bred by golfing great Gary Player, can atone for a bitter disappointment in the Epsom Derby by winning Saturday Doncaster St. Leger, the last classic of the English horse racing season.

Broadway Flyer, a leading fancy at Epsom, trailed in 21st but was later found to be suffering from a virus infection.

No one could have been more disappointed than Player who reckoned he would rather have won the Derby than the British Open.

Broadway Flyer, sold two years previously by Player for \$45,000, ran no sort of race as Shaab and Willie Carson raced to victory.

Shaab has since retired to stud following two defeats and Saturday presents Broadway Flyer with a chance to return to the big time.

The front-running colt bounced back with a battling victory at Goodwood in July and ran a sound race when third to Sacramento and Ionio in last month's Great Voltigeur Stakes at York.

Trained by John Hills and ridden by his brother Michael, Broadway Flyer has 49: reverse form with Sacramento and Ionio Saturday.

But the greater distance of 14 1/2 furlongs (2.9 km) should help all the balance. Currently an 11-2 chance, Broadway Flyer's odds could be trimmed in the event of further rain which may take the edge off some of his rivals.

But top trainer Henry Cecil feels his 2-1 favourite Red Route acts better on softer ground and is also hoping

for rain as he bids for his fifth Leger since 1980.

Red Route has looked more impressive the further he has been asked to race. Cecil and jockey Willie Ryan are both in form, but the trainer said: "I would like a bit more rain. I am not saying he won't go on this (ground) but the more rain, the better chance I've got."

Trainer Hills, seeking his first classic victory, said: "If it slows them up it might help. He goes on any ground but rain might take the speed off a horse like Sacramento."

Ever-improving Sacramento, the 3-1 second favourite, has the full confidence of rider Walter Swinburn, a jockey who revels in the big occasion.

"I like the horse. He has a terrific combination of class and guts and I would be terribly disappointed if anything behind us at York beat us though I have a healthy respect for Red Route and Midnight Legend," he said.

A Royal Ascot winner in June, Midnight Legend (7-2) will Saturday be in his biggest test by far. John Reid rides for trainer Luca Cumani.

Double Trigger (10-1), trained northern England by Mark Johnson who lifted the 2,000 Guineas with Mister Baileys, has been struggling with Sore Shins but his cause in a probable small field of eight is far from hopeless.

Ionio (also 10-1) is trained by Clive Brittain. The Newmarket-based handler has been known to pull of surprises in major contests, but is not enjoying the best of seasons.

New IOC member sees end to rift

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) averted a fight with global sport federations by electing some of their presidents to IOC executive positions, one of the IOC's newest ruling members said Thursday.

International Archery Federation President James Easton, the second U.S. representative on the IOC executive board, said his counterparts in other sports sought greater power in deciding host sites for Olympic Games.

"I don't think the thing had gotten to a divisive thing," Easton said. "Yet some presidents felt some decisions were made without much input by the sports that were participating."

A narrow vote for Sydney

over Beijing as host for the 2000 games brought concerns to a head, although Easton said most presidents favoured going to Australia.

"I think the Sydney decision was the right one for the sports and the athletes, but the sports would like to have a greater voice in where they are going to play," he said.

IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch said at a meeting in Paris that more federation chiefs would be among new members of the ruling panel, Easton was elected to a U.S. post that went vacant for 2 1/2 years while the U.S. Olympics Committee searched for nominees.

"I don't think any great damage was done by that," Easton said. "Now we can look to the future."

Archery's Olympic future was once dim, as IOC officials considered trimming several sports from the games' lineup. Instead, a limit of 10,000 athletes was established with no regard to the number of sports.

Lesser heralded sports are being asked to trim the number of athletes sent to Olympics so they can keep their place even as new events such as taekwondo, triathlon and beach volleyball join the schedule.

"I think it's proper to ask the sports to voluntarily reduce the number of athletes competing under that ceiling so other sports can be added," Easton said. "I think there is room for more sports and the sports prove themselves by being played around the world and making

themselves presentable for TV."

Easton, 59, was mayor of the 1984 Olympic village and archery chairman of the Los Angeles Games. He joins Anita DeFrantz as a U.S. member of the committee.

"It was really important to have some help. I can't do it all," DeFrantz said. "The United States is too big a country. Too many issues and things weren't getting done."

Among those was proper campaign for Salt Lake City as host of the 2002 Winter Olympics. Easton said he understands the U.S. site is favoured, but hinted the world might not return here so soon after Atlanta's 1996 Summer Games.

"The only thing I could see would be something as unre-

lated to the success of the event as being too often in the United States," he said. "I knew (Quebec) may be strong in the sense people want to come to North America but not the U.S."

Easton will attend an IOC committee evaluation of Salt Lake City Sept. 18-21, saying he sees his role as a civic responsibility and not a conflict of interest. Easton owns a manufacturing firm in the city that makes ski poles in addition to bows, arrows and tent poles.

"(Conflict of interest) is something I have to be sensitive to, but I don't sell much product in Salt Lake City," he said. "I don't think I would be prospering any more if they get the games or not."

American baseball strike talks reach last inning

NEW YORK (AFP) — Major League Baseball owners pondered a players' union proposal here Friday in the final hours before a scheduled deadline to settle the 29-day-old labour dispute.

Many on both sides of the 29-day-old labour dispute have said Friday's deadline will likely be pushed back, despite acting commissioner Bud Selig's threat to shut down the idled 1994 season if no settlement is reached before the weekend.

"We're really talking about differing philosophies and any possibility of saving the season," Los Angeles pitcher Orel Hershiser said. "Every effort wants to make the best effort possible because we're getting to the point where some things might have to be cancelled."

The union proposal would provide visiting teams with

greater revenue from games and create a tax on teams with too large a payroll or revenue base.

The idea from players would govern owners, but a solution from any source is seen as preferable to wiping out the World Series championships for the first time in 90 years.

"The suggestions we've made we hope will make some progress," union head Don Fehr said. "What we did say here is a way to do what you want in a way players can live with."

The strike began over a dispute between owners from large and small cities, with big-budget teams buying top talent while smaller clubs became weaker. Large-market owners with high revenues refused to share money with teams from smaller cities without a salary cap on play-

ers.

Players walked out Aug. 12, determined never to accept salary limits. Only after receiving details of the owners' revenue-sharing ideas last weekend did players see room for compromise.

"We feel the proposal made some concessions," Toronto player representative Paul Molitor said. "Whether the deadline is Friday or three days from now, everyone realises that to get the playoffs in, we're in the final stages."

The plan would give visiting teams 25 per cent of game revenues, compared to the existing five per cent in the National League and 20 per cent in the American League.

The taxation plan would likely have the 16 largest clubs paying into a tax pool for 12 smaller clubs.

NFL remains most costly day out in American sports

NEW YORK (AP) — A day at a National Football League (NFL) game for a family of four remains the most expensive outing in American pro sports, averaging \$184.19, according to Team Marketing Report, a Chicago-based newsletter.

The cost represents a 6.3 per cent increase from last season, when the average was \$173.37, and includes four average-priced tickets, two small beers, four small sodas, four hot dogs, parking for one car, two game programs and two towel caps.

The biggest contributor to the NFL's increase was an 8.2 per cent rise in average ticket prices to \$31.05, the largest one-year boost since 1981, when Team Marketing Report began tracking such statistics.

Beer went up 7 per cent, with the Philadelphia Eagles charging the most, \$4.75 for a 14-ounce cup.

The San Francisco 49ers,

with an average ticket price of \$39.75, have the NFL's highest average cost for a family of four for the fourth consecutive year — \$236, 14 per cent higher than last year.

The Green Bay Packers, whose average ticket price is \$26.13, have the lowest average cost, \$151.02. The Cincinnati Bengals are the second-least expensive team to see with an average cost of \$163.22. Then come the Indianapolis Colts at \$164.90 and the New Orleans Saints at \$167.83.

The NBA had a fan cost index of \$168.78 during the 1993-94 season, with the average ticket price at \$27.12. Major League Baseball's 1993 fan cost index was \$95.80 and its average ticket price was \$10.45.

Football's first \$40 ticket belongs to the Philadelphia Eagles, with the league average at \$31.05, an increase from \$28.68 last year. That helped the Eagles become

the second-most expensive team with a fan cost index of \$216, followed by the New York Giants at \$213.35 and the Los Angeles Raiders at \$201.27.

The cheapest ticket in the league is \$25, charged by the New York Jets.

The Giants had the biggest increase in ticket prices this year, to \$35.59, a 23.8 per cent rise, with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers right behind with a 22.9 per cent boost, up to \$29.57.

Sixteen teams increased ticket prices this season and nine teams froze ticket prices from a year ago — Arizona, Cleveland, Dallas, Green Bay, Indianapolis, the Raiders, the Los Angeles Rams, the Jets and Washington. Some teams held off because they make changes only every few years.

The three teams decreasing average ticket prices were Atlanta, Minnesota and New Orleans.

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A deposit of 20 per cent of the total bid is required at the time of bid. All bidders will be notified and deposits refunded beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 13, 1994. All property must be removed within 24 hours of notification. If not, a storage of JD 50 per day will be imposed. All bids must be deposited by 12:00 p.m. on Sept. 12, 1994.

All property is sold on an as-is, where-is, non-returnable basis for cash payment without refund or warranty.

Boli makes peace with Rangers

GLASGOW (R) — French international Basile Boli, in trouble with Rangers over criticism of their manager and players, will stay with the Scottish champions, the club said Thursday.

Boli's spell with Rangers, who signed the defender from former European champions Marseille for £2.7 million sterling (\$4.16 million) in the off-season, appeared last week as if it would end after just five competitive games.

British papers said Boli criticised manager Walter Smith's tactics and the attitude of his Rangers teammates before a crucial European Cup preliminary round match in an interview.

Boli, summoned to Ibrox Thursday, denied making some of the more contentious comments and Smith accepted there had been mis-translations.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Swede joins Wednesday

SHEFFIELD (AFP) — Swedish international Klas Ingegson has signed for English Premiership side Sheffield Wednesday. The Hillsborough club are understood to have paid Dutch side PSV Eindhoven around two million pounds for the 26-year-old player, who appeared in all seven games as Sweden finished third in this year's World Cup. Although Ingegson has put pen to paper, Wednesday manager Trevor Francis is waiting for the Dutch FA to officially notify their English counterparts of the transfer, before he can consider him for Saturday's match at Nottingham Forest. Ingegson, an attacking midfielder, started his career with IFK Gothenburg and played for Belgian club, Mechelen, before joining PSV.

5 cleared of brawl charges

MELBOURNE, Australia (AFP) — An Australian Football League (AFL) tribunal cleared five players from the West Coast club here Friday of charges arising from a wild brawl with Footscray opponents at half-time in their match at Perth last weekend. The tribunal exonerated the five after they gave evidence in a video linkup with Perth, where the club is based. Three Footscray players

were also charged but the Melbourne club obtained a Supreme Court injunction here to postpone their hearings until at least next Monday.

Walters joins Wolves

LONDON (AFP) — Liverpool's former Aston Villa and Glasgow Rangers winger Mark Walters, 30, joined first division Wolverhampton Wanderers on loan Friday. Walters' Anfield colleague, Paul Stewart, is also on loan at the Midlands club, which is managed by former England boss Graham Taylor.

LeMond considers quitting

ANAHEIM (AFP) — Greg LeMond says he is "unlikely" ever to race again, but the 33-year-old U.S. champion cyclist stopped short of announcing his retirement. "If I quit today, I will be happy. I will have no regrets," he told journalists at the opening of the Interbike International Bicycle show. The three-times Tour de France winner added: "I'm going through a real transition in my career. I'm trying to decide. I don't want to officially say I'm retiring, because I want to make sure, but it isn't likely I will compete again."

مكتبة ابن بطوطة

Schumacher coming to grips with suspension

LONDON (AP) — Formula One points leader Michael Schumacher, banished to the sidelines for this weekend's Italian Grand Prix, is still trying to come to terms with his two-race suspension that has put his world title hopes in jeopardy.

"My feelings will be a mixture of helplessness, anger and disappointment as I see my friend J.J. Lehto take over my Benetton car," the German driver wrote in a column for the European newspaper on the eve of qualifying at Monza.

Schumacher was banned for two races and stripped of his points at the British Grand Prix for passing pole-sitter Damon Hill during the warm-up lap, then failing to come in to the pits when shown the black flag.

Schumacher said he never saw the black flag and felt that the punishment far outweighed the crime. He lost an appeal to have the suspension overturned.

"After the hearing I felt so stunned," Schumacher wrote. "I had lost my life's passion for two races, the real essence of my whole year in Formula One and, in my heart, I knew I had done nothing important, nothing truly important, wrong. I had simply passed another car on the formation lap and the rest of these events just followed."

"I am not missing this Monza weekend... because of anything I have done deliberately, but because of mistakes."

Schumacher leads the

Grand Prix standings by 21 points, a lead that will be whittled down to just one point if Hill wins the two races while Schumacher is suspended.

Schumacher also lost points after an apparent victory at the Belgian Grand Prix last month when the wooden plant under the car — a speed-reduction device introduced midway through the season — was found to be too thin. Schumacher lost his appeal on that case Wednesday.

The Benetton team has also been in trouble over its refueling system, though it received no penalty from the international federation over that matter at the same hearing. The catalogue of misfortune prompted Schumacher to tell a German newspaper earlier this week that he might quit the team if he felt they were operating illegally behind his back.

"I am not trying to suggest in any way that I doubt the motives of the actions of the Benetton team," Schumacher wrote in the European. "We all go to the edge of our own performance, to the limit of the regulations, but we do not go beyond that."

Schumacher also wrote that he would start giving more attention to his public image.

"In the past, I may have been too reticent and not paid enough attention to the public's opinion and what is said," the 25-year-old driver wrote. "From now on I think I will be more attentive."



Michael Stich

Stich double-faults his way into U.S. Open semis

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Stich double-faulted 15 times in his worst match yet at the U.S. Open, but still managed to stutter-step into the semifinals.

The highest-seeded man left in the tournament, the No. 4 Stich created trouble for himself and got plenty from young Swede Jonas Bjorkman before escaping with a 6-4, 6-4, 6-7 (7-9), 6-4 victory Thursday night.

Stich's next opponent is Karel Novacek, who served 28 aces to beat Jaime Yzaga 6-2, 6-7 (7-9), 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 and reach his first Grand Slam semifinal after 30 early exits.

Andre Agassi and Todd Martin will play in the other semifinal Saturday.

Stich, the 1991 Wimbledon champion, had never gone past the quarterfinals at the U.S. Open. There were times in this match when it seemed he wouldn't make it this time.

"I was serving very, very badly," said Stich, whose double-faults more than offset his 13 aces against the player who knocked out Stefan Edberg. "Right now I'm really, really tired. All the credit to Bjorkman, the way he kept fighting. He never gave up. Not many guys are doing that."

"Today I played my worst match of the open. But it's very important to me that I made it into the semis, that I stayed in there."

Stich knew his performance would not convince many people he could win

this tournament, but he didn't much care.

"Let everybody think Agassi's supposed to win," Stich said. "I like that."

He cruised in the first two sets, held a 4-2 lead in the third, but let Bjorkman hack in by serving erratically. Stich, who also blew a 5-2 lead in the third-set tiebreaker, succumbed to tiredness and lost his rhythm as the match wore on.

Stich's loss in the tiebreaker cost him his first set of the tournament, and the way he was serving it seemed he could quickly lose another. But he broke Bjorkman to take a 3-1 lead in the fourth set, overcame one more poor service game, and broke him again for the match with a lob that Bjorkman leaped to hit with a backhand overhead and tapped just wide.

Novacek, a 29-year-old from the Czech Republic who logs more miles and plays more tournaments than anyone else, relied on his serve to get him out of trouble as he scored a victory over the man who upset defending champion Pete Sampras in the fourth round.

After playing so well against Sampras, Yzaga played sloppily and slow, spraying 73 unforced errors and carrying on a nonstop conversation with himself about his mistakes. He changed his shoes near the end of the first set, changed his rackets several times, but couldn't change the way he was playing.

"The Sampras match took a lot out of me," Yzaga said. "I was sore yesterday and I was sore today. It was hard."

Novacek, who hit 78 unforced errors while playing mostly from the baseline, wasn't much livelier. Apparently bored fans talked on cellular telephones and read newspapers, rousing only to cheer Novacek at the end of a 3½ hour match.

But none of that really mattered to Novacek, who was happy to get this far. In five previous U.S. Opens, he never got past the third round. Despite his height — at 6-foot-3 (1.87 metres) he towered eight inches (20 cm) over Yzaga — Novacek's style is best on clay, and hardcourts have rarely been kind to him.

Ranked 56th, Novacek has been a professional since 1984. He's never come close in the Grand Slams, getting only as far as the quarterfinals at the 1987 French Open.

"It was the dream destination to break the quarterfinals of the Grand Slams, and I am endlessly happy that I did it today," Novacek said. "I won 15 tournaments. I have been playing Davis Cup. I have been playing masters. I have been playing everything basically that exists in tennis, but I never went to play semifinals of Grand Slams."

Elna Renzich and Patrick Galbraith won the mixed doubles final, beating the top-seeded of Jana Novotna and Todd Woodbridge 6-2, 6-4.

Unser seeks record Indy-car series title

ELKHART LAKE, Wiscon (AFP) — Brazil's Emerson Fittipaldi has not given up hope of catching teammate Al Unser Jr., the runaway leader in what is now a two-man fight for the Indy-car season driving title.

"Al has done a fantastic job and he deserves to win the championship, but I'm not going to concede to him until it's impossible for me to win the championship," Fittipaldi said.

Unser has won three straight races and eight of the 13 Indy-car events so far this season, matching Michael

Andretti's record for triumphs in a year.

Unser leads Fittipaldi 193-137 in the points race with only 66 points available in the season's final three events, the first of those Sunday's Road America 200 here on a four-mile (6.4 km) road course.

"I have had some good races at Road America, but I have never been in a position to win," Fittipaldi said. "I'm looking forward to the race because now that I am with Team Penske, I believe I will have a shot at winning."

England beat U.S. in soccer friendly

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — Alan Shearer scored two first-half goals Wednesday night to give England's soccer team a 2-0 victory over the United States, avenging last year's humiliating loss to the Americans.

The U.S. team was completely outmatched in its first ever appearance at Wembley Stadium, the cradle of international soccer.

Shearer, who plays for Blackburn Rovers in the premier league, scored in the 33rd and 40th minutes and came close on several other opportunities. He had a field day against defender Alexi Lalas. The hero of the U.S. World Cup team.

It was the Americans' first game since this summer's World Cup in the United States, where they reached the second round before losing to Brazil.

England was eager to erase the memories of its 2-0 defeat to the United States in Foxboro, Mass., 15 months ago. That was one of the most embarrassing defeats in English soccer history.

"This was a little bit of a payback for the previous result," said England's Barry Venison.

England controlled the play throughout, setting up numerous scoring chances for Shearer, David Platt and Teddy Sheringham.

Shearer, who had 34 goals last season for Blackburn, opened the scoring by breaking in on the right side and firing just inside Lalas' left foot.

Seven minutes later, Shearer ducked inside Lalas and headed home a perfect cross from Graeme Le Saux. The shot flew past diving goalkeeper Brad Friedel into the left corner of the net.

Shearer nearly made it a hat trick in the 45th minute with another diving header, but this time Friedel was there to punch the shot away. Shearer banged heads with Lalas on the play, and was carried off the field on a stretcher. But he was back for the start of the second half.

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Gilbert is the brain behind Agassi's run at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (R) — Brad Gilbert has emerged as the coaching brains behind Andre Agassi's run to the U.S. Open semifinals.

"I would tell him that even if he played great tennis, if you don't play smart and with strategy you could still lose," Gilbert told Reuters after Agassi's straight-set victory over 13th-seeded Thomas Muster Wednesday night.

"He started to learn to exploit weaknesses," Gilbert said of Agassi's performance in keeping the muscular Austrian on his toes with a mixture of a groundstroke and volley winners.

Agassi, 24, has learned his lessons well from the 33-year-old tour veteran, who started sharing the wisdom of his own 11-year playing career with the flamboyant American earlier this year.

Unseeded at the open for the first time since 1987, Agassi has topped three seeds, making him just the seventh unseeded contender in open history to accomplish such a feat.

"He has spent his whole career winning matches, that really he shouldn't have ever won," Agassi said last week of Gilbert, winner of 20 professional titles.

"You know that I have kind of done the opposite. I have lost a lot of matches in my career that I shouldn't have lost. I think the combination is really what I need and he has been good for me."

Agassi could become the first unseeded player to eliminate four seeds at the open with the dismissal of ninth-seeded Todd Martin in an all-American semifinal Saturday.

But tournament records are not what drives Agassi as he tries to reach the open final for the first time since losing the 1990 championship to Pete Sampras.

"I mean I'm very proud of my achievements so far, but I've been further, so nothing is making me think about how great this is," Agassi said Wednesday. Agassi's only Grand Slam title came at the 1992 Wimbledon.

"I'm not seeded and I'm in the semis and when I step on the court I feel like I want to win the match and that's not going to change whatever number is next to my name."

Gilbert has sensed the change in Agassi's attitude since starting with him at the Lipton Championships in March.



Andre Agassi

"He has new found purpose the last four months," Gilbert said. "He is playing with purpose and is out there for all the right reasons. He is not out there for Nick (former coach Bollettieri) or anybody else, he is out there for himself."

Agassi is so focused on his tennis that he says he is not getting caught up in the stir his winning has created at this open.

"I've got a job to do out there and what I offer the game is only based on what my committee is to the game

and my commitment is to be as prepared as possible," Agassi said.

"I've been doing that better now than I ever have. Nothing is going to take me away from that train of thought."

And the primary thought that Agassi brought to the open was a very simple one according to Gilbert.

"He came here believing he could win and now there is a lot of light at the end of the tunnel and the train is coming."

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Political stability, economic reforms main priorities — Iryani

From P.V. Vivekanand
in Sanaa

POLITICAL STABILITY and economic reforms are the main priorities of the government in post-civil war Yemen, now that it is no longer under the constraints imposed by southern separatists, and the country has every chance to develop itself given the right ingredients, according to Planning Minister Abdul Karim Iryani.

Dr. Iryani, widely seen as effectively number two in Yemen after President Ali Abdullah Saleh despite his formal status as only a cabinet member, is not downplaying the massive challenge facing the country after the devastating civil war. But he is a strong believer in the ability of Yemenis to meet the challenge and live up to the exigencies of changing a political and economic system that had been their nemesis for decades.

The soft-spoken Western educated Mr. Iryani is often described by diplomats as the Yemeni best suited to help his country overcome its problems, which range from tribal rivalry and religious extremism to an ineffective oil economy and political bickering that

threatens further chaos as the country pursues a gradual political liberalisation.

Dr. Iryani, who had been repeatedly frustrated in his efforts to bring about economic reforms and improve the lot of the people in the most impoverished country in the Arabian Peninsula, is in the process of redrafting an economic programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and supported by the U.S., Japan and Germany.

With the implementation of the programme, the IMF and major donor countries would help Yemen address its nearly \$7 billion in foreign debts, the bulk of it inherited from South Yemen when the North and South merged in 1990, Dr. Iryani said.

The main problem that he faced Dr. Iryani said in a wide-ranging interview with the Jordan Times was the resistance of the former premier, Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), whether in moves to better reflect the benefits of Yemen's oil in the country's economy or to streamline serious gaps in economic management in united Yemen.

As Dr. Iryani works out of his office in the heart of Sanaa looking at the econo-

mic options of the government, President Saleh is busy negotiating with political parties on forming a new government to replace the cabinet headed by Mr. Attas.

Mr. Attas and most other prominent YSP leaders who proclaimed separation from the Republic of Yemen after a four-year unity have fled the country, leaving President Saleh's General People's Congress and the Islamist Al Islah party as the main parties in the coalition.

The country is now headed by a caretaker government, pending the formation of a new cabinet by President Saleh.

The consolidation of political stability and strengthening of political institutions and democracy would come through constitutional changes, Dr. Iryani said without elaboration. But diplomats said the changes are likely to include increased powers for the president and the dissolution of a five-member presidential council.

While leaving the immediate political bargaining with parties of his president, Dr. Iryani, Sanaa's diplomatic anchorman during the May 4-July 7 civil war, said he was focusing on a series of economic



Abdul Karim Al Iryani

reforms that would include the elimination of state food subsidies, the removal of the "fictitious" official exchange rate of the Yemeni rial and an end to the "ridiculous" price of oil in the country.

"The role played by the development of oil in Yemen is limited to meeting the local demand," he said.

"A litre of gasoline is sold in Sanaa at a price cheaper than in Riyadh," said Dr. Iryani. "It is cheaper than water." A litre of gasoline costs six riyals (50 U.S. cents at the official exchange rate but

less than six cents at the black market of 80 to 85 riyals to the dollar), while a small bottle of mineral water costs 15 riyals.

Although Yemen produces 350,000 barrels per day of oil, the country has never been able to reflect its oil output on socio-economic development, Dr. Iryani said.

The government share of the output under a production-sharing accord with the U.S. Hunt Oil is less than 50 per cent, of which local consumption accounts for more than 70,000 barrels, leaving the government with little in terms of oil export revenues, which are anyway consumed in food subsidies for the 14 million people.

The government is working on a fiscal budget — the first in three years since the government of united Yemen could agree on little — and this would include major economic moves such as reduction of food subsidies and a hike in local oil prices, Dr. Iryani said.

The new government, as and when formed, will also revive the economic programme agreed with the IMF. "Had it not been for the former YSP premier, we would have been eight months into the programme and on our way to economic

reforms," Dr. Iryani told the Jordan Times.

If anything, he said, the civil war brought in "tremendous new burdens" on the government and these would have to be taken into consideration in the programme.

Dr. Iryani expressed high optimism that the port of Aden, which came under the direct control of the Sanaa government only after the civil war and the ouster of the YSP, could "return to its glorious past" and resume its role as key link between Asia and Europe if the remnants of the YSP legacy — mainly port labour union troubles — are removed and a major liberalisation programme takes effect.

Provided that reforms are implemented in earnest, said Dr. Iryani, "envisage Yemen no longer being at the receiving end of foreign assistance at the end of this decade."

On the political front, Dr. Iryani said, he believed that the presence of the Muslim fundamentalist Al Islah in the coalition was an asset to Yemen rather than a negative factor in the country's image.

"Islah, as represented in the coalition, is not a source of any concern for aid donors," he said. "The ex-

tremist elements outside, which, some suspect, may have some relationship with Islah, are indeed a source of concern."

Dr. Iryani's comment appeared to be a tacit GPC acceptance of Islah's contention that it had nothing to do with the sweep of Islamic extremism raging in the defeated southern parts of Yemen as well as the party's denial of any links with extremist groups elsewhere in the Middle East, including Egypt, Algeria and Sudan.

"The main leaders of Islah have always been expressing opposition to any extreme methods in expressing Islam," said Dr. Iryani. "Therefore, the presence of Islah in the coalition has contributed to creating a mainstream moderate Islamic movement that will be more and more refined in its modern outlook to the outside world, in relations between nations and economic systems... under conditions that are not rigid."

"The continuation of that situation will contribute to making Islah the mainstream Islamic movement in Yemen," he said, conceding that "extremists from both ends of the political spectrum do exist, but they are a minority."

COLUMN

Women in politics win, but few run

WASHINGTON (R) —

Women in American politics win at the same rate as men but so few women run that they represent only a fraction of top office-holders, a U.S. women's voter group reported. Two years after the so-called "year of the women" in American politics, the National Women's Political Caucus found that women office-seekers win in equal proportion to men when everything else is equal. The study of more than 50,000 U.S. political candidates dating back to 1972 found that the same high percentage of female incumbents kept their seats as male incumbents, and about the same proportion of women challengers won as men. The problem, said the study's author Jody Newman, is that so few women are incumbents, and incumbency confers the biggest advantage in U.S. political races. "Winning has nothing to do with sex and everything to do with incumbency," Ms. Newman said at a news conference.

"In order to win, women have had to defeat a sitting incumbent or wait for him to retire, resign or die." The study of all general election candidates who ran for U.S. House, U.S. Senate and state governorships since 1972 and for State House and State Senate since 1986 showed that incumbents won 16 times as often as challengers for the U.S. House and 10 times as often for state legislatures. Newman called for further research on term limits, campaign finance reform and "other measures which might level the playing field for women candidates." Even though women make up 51 per cent of the U.S. population and 53 per cent of American voters, only 11 per cent of the U.S. House, 7 per cent of the U.S. Senate, 8 per cent of governors and 21 per cent of state legislators are women, the study said. The caucus is looking into why so few women run.

U.S. museum caves on Enola Gay exhibit

WASHINGTON (AFP) — A

U.S. museum has cut pictures of victims of atom bombs dropped on Japan in 1945 from a World War II display and added sections on Japanese aggression, but some say the display is still too soft on Tokyo. The Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum is planning a display to open in May that portrays the events leading up to the dropping of atom bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A centerpiece of the show is the Enola Gay, named for the mother of pilot Paul Tibbets. The aircraft has been restored at a cost of nearly \$1 million. But the Air and Space Museum's planned display created a firestorm that just won't die, despite a series of changes to show fewer Japanese as civilian victims and more Japanese aggression. Carl Holman, a legislative director for Representative Tom Lewis, a Republican from Florida, said that despite changes Mr. Lewis and others still objected to "the sheer numbers and emotional appeal of the ground zero section." "We see one dog from a woman vapourised, and a watch from someone else vapourised. It's a little bit extreme," he added. The battle began in May, when the Air Force Association began garnering opposition to a show that they said showed Japanese largely as victims of World War II and U.S. soldiers as aggressors bent on vengeance. The Committee for the Restoration and Display of the Enola Gay, originally formed two decades ago, collected 9,000 signatures to demand changes. The Air and Space Museum spokesman Mike Fetters. Some photographs of the carnage near where the bombs dropped were eliminated and a quote from a Japanese writer extolling the romance of kamikaze pilots was cut. An introductory section was added showing Japan's attacks on Pearl Harbor in 1941 and the bloody fights for Iwo Jima and Okinawa. But critics of the exhibit say they will withhold judgement until they closely review all 500 pages of the revised exhibit.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Clinton's popularity continues to fall

WASHINGTON (AFP) — President Bill Clinton's popularity ratings continue to erode with the approach of mid-term legislative elections that are crucial to the success of the remainder of his first term in office. A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll released Friday found that 39 per cent of those surveyed approved of the way he is doing his job, compared to 54 per cent who disapproved. That is the lowest point Clinton has hit in such popularity polls over the past 12 months, and it describes a steady declining trajectory from the beginning of the year, when 54 per cent of the public gave him a thumbs up. The health of the U.S. economy and Mr. Clinton's recent success in wresting an anti-crime bill from the congress has had no positive impact on his standing in the polls. Even more ominous for Clinton and the ruling democrats is that with only 50 days to go before the elections, 48 per cent of those surveyed say they are ready to vote Republican, up from 46 per cent. Two months before the 1992 elections, the Democrats were preferred by 55 per cent of those polled, compared to 43 per cent for Republicans.

Bank manager stabbed over interest rates

NICOSIA (R) — A Cypriot bank manager was repeatedly stabbed by an angry customer with psychiatric problems who demanded higher interest rates on his account, a bank official said on Friday. Andreas Evangelou, manager of the Lombard Natwest Branch in the Ayios Antonios section of the capital Nicosia, was in hospital in serious condition after Thursday's incident, the official said. The customer, Nicos Christodoulou, entered the bank and demanded a higher interest rate on his deposit account. "Our bank manager turned his back to get some cash from the cashier and then he was stabbed in the back," the official said. Cypriot media reported that Mr. Christodoulou, who was arrested, had a history of psychiatric problems and had served a jail sentence for stabbing his wife after accusing her of failing to feed their birds.

Another Thai officer charged over Saudi gems case

BANGKOK (R) — A Thai police officer has been charged in connection with the abduction of the wife and son of a key witness in Thailand's long-running Saudi jewellery scandal, police said on Friday. Lieutenant-Colonel Pansak Mongkolsiri, who was arrested on Thursday, was charged with abduction and illegal detention, police said. Earlier this week, two of Col. Pansak's subordinates confessed to assisting with the abduction of Sarawadi Sithanakan and her 14-year-old son, Seri, who were found dead in their car on a highway north of Bangkok on Aug. 2. The cause of their deaths is still under investigation.

Sudan wins accord on repatriation of Eritreans

KHARTOUM (R) — The Sudanese and Eritrean governments have signed an agreement for the voluntary repatriation of 25,000 Eritrean refugees living in Sudan back to their country. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, which will be involved in the repatriation, was party to the accord, the Sudan news agency reported. The agency on Friday quoted Sudan's refugee Commissioner Ihsan Al Gabshawi as saying the repatriation would start this month and end in December. There are about one million refugees in Sudan, about a half of them from Eritrea. Many of the Eritreans have been staying in Sudan for more than 25 years after fleeing their homeland mainly because of the former Ethiopian province's prolonged secessionist war with forces of the Addis Ababa government. Eritrea won independence just over a year ago. Last month Sudan's Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu-Saleh visited Eritrea where he agreed with government officials there for the repatriation of the Eritreans.

Major says no secret IRA deal

BELFAST (AFP) — British Prime Minister John Major has asked the Archbishop of Armagh, who heads the Irish Protestant Church, to reassure Northern Ireland loyalists that London has not struck any secret deal with the IRA, the archbishop said Friday. The Reverend Robin Kanies said Mr. Major asked him to pass on the message to loyalist militia, who have sought assurances over the Irish Republican Army's pledge last week of lasting ceasefire in its struggle to get the British province reattached to Ireland. The archbishop told journalists here that he had spoken "directly to John Major," by telephone and had asked the prime minister to say "categorically" whether there existed a secret deal. Rev. Kanies said: "I got two answers: You have my word, there is no secret accord and I ask you to make this public." He added that "I accept the person's words until it is proved it's different." Addressing the loyalists, Rev. Kanies said: "Please listen to what I've just said... there is more to gain through political dialogue." On Thursday the Combined Loyalist Military Command, which comprises elements of the Ulster Freedom Fighters, the Ulster Volunteer Force and the Red Hand Commandos, issued a statement in which it demanded to be convinced that no secret deals had been struck between the government and the Irish Republican Army before it could make "a meaningful contribution to peace."

Pakistan welcomes OIC call for Kashmir referendum

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The

Pakistan government Friday welcomed the call by Islamic states meeting in an extraordinary session here for a referendum to be organised in Kashmir.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Assad Ali said the resolution adopted at the special meeting of the foreign ministers of the 51-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) was "strong" in denouncing human rights violations in Kashmir, currently part of the India.

It shows stronger support on the issue than the previous conferences, he added. Mr. Ali praised the "excellent unity and cooperation" achieved at the conference "although our adversaries had been trying to sow seeds of discord."

Diplomats here said the establishment of an OIC contact group on Kashmir was the conference's "modest" achievement.

From Pakistan's point of view, it was a step to internationalise its decades-old dispute with India, they said, pointing out that India had always insisted on a bilateral approach on Kashmir.

However, the diplomats doubted the consensus demonstrated at the OIC would be maintained on a "neutral ground" like the United Nations General Assembly, as many Islamic countries have strong economic relations with India.

Mr. Ali told reporters after the conference that Pakistan would be going to the General Assembly with "cautious optimism" about the passage of a resolution on Kashmir, over which India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars.

OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al Ghabid said the contact group on Kashmir would help bring about a unified stand at the United Nations.

"I appeal to the Indian government to hold a sincere, earnest dialogue with Kashmiris and Pakistan," Mr. Ghabid said.

A Pakistani move to raise the Kashmir issue at the U.N. Human Rights Commission had fizzled out in March on an Iranian withdrawal.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, at a news conference here Friday, was cautious again.

"We believe in a peaceful solution of the problem," he said, stressing that Iran was opposed to interference in the internal affairs of any country.

The foreign ministers on Friday also rejected as "absolutely unacceptable" the easing of existing sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro.

Winding up a three-day emergency session here, the conference called on the five-nation contact group, comprising Britain, France, Germany, Russia and the United States, to refrain from "entertaining such suggestions."

Abu Mazen returns to Jericho, says he is quitting politics

JERICHO (R) — Mahmoud Abbas, an architect of the Israeli-PLO self-rule agreement, arrived in Jericho on Friday from Jordan after more than a quarter-century in exile saying he looked forward to life as an ordinary citizen.

Asked by reporters if he would take a post in the Palestinian authority running self-rule, Mr. Abbas, better known as Abu Mazen, said: "I'm not going to do anything. I'll enjoy my life normally, not work in the political arena."

Mr. Abbas is considered second after Chairman Yasser Arafat in the Palestine Liberation Organisation's hierarchy and supervised secret talks between the PLO and Israel in Oslo which culminated in last September's

peace deal.

Norwegian middleman Terje Roed Larsen has said that Mr. Abbas, along with Mr. Arafat and Israeli leaders Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres, deserves the Nobel Peace Prize.

But Mr. Abbas told reporters in Jericho that the peace agreement "needs more effort to come to a final resolution." He did not elaborate.

"I am not against or for the Palestinian authority's position because it is too early to judge," Mr. Abbas added.

Many PLO leaders have returned to the self-rule areas to join the Palestinian administration of Gaza and Jericho set up in May in the first stage of the peace deal.

Such homecomings have become routine, and there

were no crowds to greet Mr. Abbas on his arrival.

Despite the lack of fanfare, his return is expected to bolster support for Mr. Arafat in the self-rule areas, Palestinian sources said.

"I'm happy to be back on my land, no more as a refugee. I want to take my rights and my land and to live as a normal person," Mr. Abbas said before leaving for a brief visit to the West Bank town of Ramallah, from where he was to proceed to Gaza.

Palestinians have said Mr. Abbas intends to visit his native town of Safed, now in Israel, which he has not seen since leaving in 1948.

Another Palestinian leader, Nasif Awwad, secretary-general of the Baghdad-based Arab Liberation Front



Mahmoud Abbas

(ALF) and an acquaintance of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, was also to return on Friday after 30 years in exile.

It was not immediately clear if Mr. Awwad had also entered.

The ALF opposes the Israel-PLO peace deal, but some reports indicated Iraq was trying to court Israel to join the peace process.



Mahmoud Abbas, known as Abu Mazen, gets a hug from an unidentified old friend as he arrives in Jericho Friday. Abu Mazen is the head of PLO's department for Arab and

International Affairs. He will take up residence in Gaza City. At (L) is Jericho police commander Haj Ismail and at (R) Secret Service Chief Jibril Rjoub (AFP photo)

Gulf states want to boost birth rate

By Nadim Kawash
Agence France Press

ABU DHABI — Gulf Arab states have been striving to cut the number of foreigners while at the same time boost the birth rate among nationals to solve an imbalance in their populations, experts here have said.

The six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nations are among the most sparsely populated countries in the world given their relatively small populations, but have a high proportion of foreign residents and workers.

But following two wars in the oil-rich region, GCC states have begun to view the swelling expatriate community as a social, economic and even security threat.

"GCC states have never witnessed traditional population problems as they have a relatively small population, a vast area and enormous

wealth that can ensure development in the long run regardless of the population growth rate," a Gulf-based Arab social expert said.

"But that does not mean they have no population problems. The problem they are suffering is equally serious as foreigners have remained a majority in most members despite efforts to increase the number of natives."

The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in August 1990 caused alarm among fellow GCC members, already wary after the Iran-Iraq war from 1980-1988, especially the United Arab Emirates (UAE) which has a large Iranian community.

Saudi Arabia, Oman and Bahrain are the only GCC members whose national population outnumber their expatriate community. But they still heavily rely on foreign workers given their low

native manpower.

Foreigners in the other GCC states of Kuwait, Qatar and the UAE make up between 60 and 80 per cent of the population.

Most of the countries have launched campaigns to reduce reliance on foreign labour and cut the number of resident expatriates.

They have included allowing native women to work, educational and training drives for nationals, giving priority to locals in jobs and incentives for births.

Incentives included an increase in social aid for the family, greater job benefits and allowances for parents and monthly payments per child.

In the UAE, parents get 300 dirhams (\$82) per child every month while a fund has been set up with a capital of 150 million dirhams (\$40.8 million) to give grants to

nationals to encourage them to marry.

The GCC has a combined population of around 22 million and an area of around 2.4 million square kilometres.

Per capita income in the GCC is now one of the highest in the world, ranging from \$5,000 to more than \$18,000.

"Our small country is not facing the traditional population problems suffered by other countries like overpopulation," UAE planning minister Sheikh Humaid Bin Ahmed Al Mualala told the UN International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

"We are facing different population problems due to historic, economic, social and cultural differences. These circumstances have prompted us to resort to different methods to tackle the population problem."